

Minutes of the meeting of the Lismore community Trust held 21st March at 7.30pm in Lismore Public Hall

Present

Andy Hough (AH) chair, Anna Stewart (AS), Callum MacGillivray (CM), Archie MacGillivray (AM), Kate McClusky (KM) joined via Zoom. Rosemary Barry (RB) notetaker

1. Apologies

Anita Bachuil (AB)

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 28th February had yet to be circulated.

- i) AH had contacted the islander that had previously been suggested regarding holding the confidential register of people wanting a house on Lismore but that person had declined to do this. During a short discussion alternative suggestions were made.

Action - ***AH agreed to contact these.***

3. New directors and co-opted membership

Mike Hyatt declined to be a Trust director but was willing to continue to act as an advisor. Seanaid MacDonald (SM) was accepted as a director. Julia F was co opted as a Director.

4. Housing Group

It was agreed that this be disbanded

5. Website

Jane Hough was working to update this, including the Community Trust pages.

Action - Members to write a couple of sentences about themselves for the website and provide a photo.

6. Finance report

AB had passed the treasurer's details to Sarah.

There was approx £4,000 worth of materials lost in the Port Ramsay fire which it was felt needed to be acknowledged and accepted as an irretrievable loss by grant suppliers for. It was noted that there had been attempts to make a claim on different insurance policies which had been unsuccessful. Sebastian, chair at the time had spoken to the HIE who had provided the funds and was given a verbal assurance that it had been written off and would not be counted against the Trust for future funding applications. It was felt there was need for this to be formalised as an irretrievable loss. It was agreed a formal assurance was necessary.

Action AH ***to follow this up with the Sebastian***

7. Communication

It was agreed the messenger group was useful and could be used to flag up if there was an e mail to look up.

8. Kiosks

a) It was agreed that the use of the donated wood was impractical and too costly. Julia and Erick had been approached and could provide an alternative for a cost of around £1,200.

b) The need for a formal agreement with users was discussed along with a rental. The Honesty boxes to be the responsibility of the renters. The kiosks would also have an LCT donations box and a picture frame for a poster making a total cost of no more than £1,500. The addition of a bench, an idea from the original scheme was shelved.

Action AH to draft a user agreement with annual fee of £20

9 Housing Project

a) 5th March Drop In

It was agreed that it had been a useful event. The questions arising included:

Q. Who will own them and could they be sold?

A. The Trust will own the houses and they could not be sold to tenants as the right to buy had been abolished by the Scottish Government.

Q. Will they be passive houses?

A. The building regulations are changing and future houses will have to be airtight etc

Q. Will they affect the water situation at Achnacroish?

A. This is an ongoing key issue for many islanders. There will be a professional report and the buildings would not be deleterious to their supply.

Q. Will they be genuinely affordable?

A. The rent, though different from a Council set social, will be affordable compared to the average private sector rent. The actual rents have yet to be determined.

Q. What can be done about empty and second homes?

A. For short term lets the money goes off the island. On Tiree they are exploring the idea of getting short term let people to use their site for booking so more money can be fed back to the community.

Action CM and KM to research Isle 20 and its link to letting houses

b) Feedback from SLF and RIHF

AH reported that he had had nothing back as yet although he had sent before Christmas to RIHF

Action AH to chase

c) Survey

AH described the ballot form that was going to be used and explained that there was a need to engage with the people as they were given out and to try to get it filled in whilst with them. Boxes for replies were to be placed in the kiosks and the shop. There was a discussion on who is a resident. It is important for grant funding to show a high proportion of the population in favour. Kiki and Julian had agreed to help distribute the ballot envelopes and get them to the people to take round personally. Their help was appreciated. There was a discussion about the time scale of the return of the ballot forms and it was agreed that there needed to be sufficient time for the forms to be completed and submitted and that lambing needed to be taken into consideration.

d) Needs assessment documentation

AH was hoping to get this done by the end of March except for the ballot result which needed to be included once it was available.

10 AOB

There was a discussion about the feasibility of combining memberships documentation eg Community Hall, Community Trust and Heritage Centre.

Action AH to discuss with Heritage centre, Hall and Community Transport chairs and report back.

11 Date of next meeting

April meeting postponed because of lambing and May 2nd. 7pm was accepted rather than 7.30.