

Notes of the meeting of 14th November 2022 at Lismore Public Hall.

Present – Andy Hough (chair) Anita Bachuil (by zoom) Archie McGillvery, Seona Macdonald (by zoom) Laura Savill, Anna Stewart, Julia Fayngruen

Apologies Callum McGillvery

2) Minutes of the meeting of the 10th October were agreed.

3) No matters arising not covered on the agenda

4) Laura explained the process for changing signatories and getting the account on line which is underway. Some bank statements missing, some invoices need raising and others paying but overall balance around £9,000.

Arrangements for claiming the SLF grant was explained. These arrangements provide greater accountability and fund management than has previously been the case.

5) **Housing project.**

Board members have been very active and committed to getting quotes for work.

- a) Topographic survey – 3 suppliers asked and only one local provider prepared to quote. Others concerned about travel expenses – (involves 200+ miles and an overnight stay.)

Agreed – Digital Land Surveys, Oban (Richard Ayling) be commissioned for a topographic survey.

- b) Environmental survey- 4 quotes considered that varied significantly in price. The slightly more expensive quote was considered the best option due to locality and helpfulness in understanding the Trusts needs.

Agreed - Transtech Connel (Garrett Macfarlene) be commissioned to undertake environmental survey.

- c) Water survey – It was noted ACHA commissioned a water survey for a house at Lorne View. ACHA (Fiona Campbell) agreed to share the report. While a borehole might provide a solution for the Trust houses the residents of Achnacroish have longstanding frustrations with their supply and it would be supportive of the Trust to look a wider long-term solution. While a second opinion might have been sought it was considered most appropriate to get quotes for the remedial work and look at the viability of solving the issue.

Actions AH to circulate ACHA funded report and seek quotes from firms to undertake works recommended in the survey report.

- d) Cost of electric supply has been explored and is dependent on certain local factors. It was agreed these would be likely determined on commissioning but that the Trust should consider a cost of approx. £15k in their budget planning.
- e) The design and build approach- Extensive detailed discussion about the merits of two different approaches were discussed at length. Consideration of what others had done was debated along with previously circulated SWOT analysis. On balance it was agreed a modular factory-built supplier should be commissioned.

Actions – AH to draw up a pre commissioning questionnaire to circulate to providers

- f) The offer of external commissioned consultant support was noted. While a representative had come across to the island and met board members and it was felt there could be some very useful contributions (eg bidding to RIHF) there was insufficient flexibility in their offer that would consume a very significant portion of our funding allocation from SLF.
- g) Feeding information back to the community was discussed and getting the right balance between quietly getting on with things and boasting about everything done was considered.

Actions – AH make draft a bullet point poster pf what we have done.

6) **Future of the church** – Mandie Currie is working with a group on extensive far- reaching consultation on the use of the church. This process is to be completed by the Easter 2023. The funding support post discussed at the last meeting and role description circulated is therefore on hold. It was noted that while the Trust might be seen as the suitable body on the island the risks of taking responsibility for the church in terms of financial a liability and volunteer capacity to support were very significant and beyond current experience.

7) **Pier and Achnacroish** While the bid to Crown Estates was unsuccessful (£3.1m of bids for £350k) it was agreed there is a desirability to move things forward around Achnacroish. The SLF link had suggested there could be feasibility funding to survey the pier and undertake community consultation. Additionally it was noted there was a potential to use of a Section 215 notice instigated through Community Council to get it removed.

Actions

AMcG – to explore scrap merchants who would remove the barge.

AH to draft a feasibility bid for the pier survey and community consultation on the improvements to Achnacroish.

AOB

- a) Back in the summer a bid to Cycling Scotland for some electric bikes was devised with Lismore bike hire. The chair was notified today of the successful offer of 2 bikes and some accessories. It was generally agreed as a useful initiative to improve health outcomes by having people, perhaps daunted by the undulations on the island, to venture out improving their physical and mental health. It also has the potential to reduce traffic on the roads and assist the community perhaps relying on “island cars”

Actions - AH to work with Lismore Bike Hire on the arrangements and look at introduction/promotion when bikes purchased.

- b) AS informed the board of the very encouraging take up of training for carers, which her and Flora are co-ordinating. All welcomed and supported this initiative and her efforts.

Actions – Trust to consider what else could be done to support them including use of electric bikes and potentially a car.

10) – The desire to hold AGM as soon as reasonably possible was noted. 3 weeks notice of date needs to be given but audited accounts also need to be available. A potential date mid January for next meeting and AGM were proposed.

Actions LS to contact Auditors and confirm potential account publication.

Date of next meeting – anticipated mid- January (16th or 23rd) unless actions on the houses or other business required earlier.