

Portree and Braes Community Trust – Monthly Trust Meeting, held on 19 January 2022 at 7pm, at Jans and via Zoom.

Present: Calum Matheson, Fiona Thomson, Lorna Cormack, Neil Campbell, Graham Smith, Bill Edgar, Irene Deplano, Ross Cowie, Peter Urquhart, Duncan Brown (via Zoom), Iona MacDonald (Minutes).

Apologies: Chris James, Ann-Marie Campbell, John Boyd

Minutes of Previous Meeting – approved. Proposed: Lorna Cormack; Seconded: Irene Deplano.

Treasurer’s Report (DB)

It had been a quiet period. The Events project had a few transactions – bands, etc – which were held in credit until a future date. Tigh na Drochaid involvement was now closed off. Skye Community Response required a decision to be made on how to disburse remaining funds. Currently £43.5k in hand. Next SCR meeting is 28 Jan. End of Financial year was May 31 2021 so accounts would be made up to that date.

Duncan had had a quote of £200 premium for Directors’ liability (covers trustees and employees) up to £100,000. It was agreed that DB should proceed with this.

Cyber Liability Cover – leave until it can be checked that this is useful/value for money.

Trust Project Officer salary – Fiona left the room while this was discussed. It was agreed unanimously to increase Fiona’s salary to £32k p.a.

Toilets

These remain closed. Highland Council Comfort Scheme would like to support the facility from June to October @ £200/month.

Advertising Boards

There were still spaces for sale. This would be advertised on the boards themselves. 4 sides were available.

Bayfield Car Park

Highland Council have been invoiced for the £10,000 rent of Bayfield for carparking but have not yet paid as the lease requires to be registered. This is in progress.

Bayfield Woodland

A request was received from a food van to site their van on the picnic area – this is not available as HC have the lease of the car park and picnic area. The Community Centre car park has been suggested to them and Peter Urquhart is in contact with the food vendors to progress if appropriate. All statutory planning applications, etc., would be the responsibility of the food vendor. In future, PBCT may have some opportunity to lease a plot in Bayfield if negotiations to take over the Scottish Water area are successful.

Within the wood itself, natural paths are being improved. Bill Edgar and ACE are keeping up litter picking, etc. The area is not used much in the winter months. Still keeping an eye on the polytunnel in the Tigh na Drochaid garden – a wheelie bin has been provided inside for litter collection.

Harbour

Not much movement to report. A bid for “Levelling Up” funds being made. Project being supported by Highland Council, and will also cover the cost to them of some necessary repairs.

Community Centre

Up to £30k available for greening community assets. Application made for funding for new windows and doors, which may roll on to next year. Insulation planned for small hall, dropping ceiling and plasterboard. Decision expected in few days.

Camanachd Square Master Plan

Rural Design and Duncan Macpherson have been recruited to draw up plans for Camanachd Square. Meeting to be held on Friday – Peter Urquhart and Duncan Brown to attend. Fiona will confirm details with both. Some questions remain over ownership of part of the ground. KGV – confirm boundaries – PBCT to progress with Katie MacDonald. Highlife Highland listed as stakeholder. Improvements expected to be delivered by September 2022.

Allotments

Irene D reported that perimeters had been marked out and that Andrew Banks had agreed to plough the ground. A water supply required to be installed – Malcolm Henry to advise. SLF Stage 2 application to be made by the end of the month. A Project Officer would be required to progress.

Outdoor Activities

Playpark @ Matheson Place – Fundraising and awareness-raising had been successful and £1500 had been raised already and the project would cost about £100,000 in total, using the same suppliers as a similar facility at Kyleakin. Arrangements to be made with Highland Council. Chris James could not be involved to any great extent, so another trustee would be needed to oversee the project or a volunteer could be co-opted to the board.

Events

Lorna Cormack reported that the New Year celebrations had had to be cancelled, but that Event Scotland had agreed that musicians, etc, could be paid and “banked” for a future event. Police Scotland would be supportive of a later event and it would be treated as a belated Hogmanay event in early March. Possible Jubilee events and parade in early June. Assistance and volunteers required.

Skye Community Response and Health Services

The next meeting of SCR would be on 28 January.

Healthcare was in a period of transition in Skye. Mainly good things happening. It was noted that the NHS had funded an electric vehicle in Sleat for the use of patients having to travel to appointments. Possibly, a similar opportunity could exist in north Skye. The car was booked via an app. Sophie would be attending a meeting next Thursday to find out more. It was mentioned that there may be a Scotrail scheme allowing travel for £1 to those attending medical appointments, which could be investigated.

AGM

The last AGM was held on 17 March 2021. It was recommended that 16 March 2022 would be suitable and the Shinty Club was suggested as a venue. Fiona to arrange.

Gaelic

The Gaelic in the Community group had met to plan sessions and work out job description for project officer, etc. This group would promote the use of Gaelic in conversation and in local businesses. The project was being offered in conjunction with Portree & Braes Community Council.

AOB

Duncan mentioned that all board members were welcome to attend the Camanachd Square meeting. A structural report was available on application to Fiona.

Lorna Cormack thanked all those who had volunteered to assist with events. The Trust thanked Lorna for her considerable work towards the events.

Fiona mentioned that board training was available to board members via HIE if required. Subjects such as governance, duties of the board, etc.

Community Centre AGM

This would be held on Tuesday 25 Jan at the Skye Gathering Hall at 7pm. Info had been distributed to those on the mailing list.

Date of Next Meeting

16 February @4pm. Fiona will book the room in Jans.

[post meeting note – Shona Cameron, trustee submitted her resignation to the board on 5th January 2022. FT has thanked Shona on behalf of the trust for her ongoing commitment]