

Portree and Braes Community Trust

Chairmans Annual Report

Presented to the membership on 25.04.23

The last AGM of the Portree and Braes Community Trust took place on the 23rd March 2022 which was held at Skye Camanachd Shinty club.

As the accounts for the year ending May 2022 have only recently been finalised this meeting relates to the accounting period May 2021 – May 2022 so those attending are asked to keep in mind that the information presented will be around 11 months old now.

The main achievements for this financial period were:

1. In partnership with The Portree and Braes Community Council employing a part time project officer to deliver the “Speak Up for Gaelic” gaelic language promotion project.
2. Continuing to employ the Community Engagement Officer to support community members involved in the co-delivery of the Sir Lewis Rtichie Recommendations
3. Employing, for the early part of the accounting period, volunteer coordinators, a financial administrator, and commissioning professional communications services to continue the delivery of the Skye Community Response service in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.
4. Delivering a community events programme including the “Autumn Fling” family music festival, The Hogmanay Hoolie and two events to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee.
5. Delivering a celebratory event to mark the purchase of the Bayfield Woodland and Amenity Land (October 2021)
6. Installing a campervan waste disposal unit at Bayfield carpark. Users are charged £3 per use.
7. Employing a project officer to work with volunteers to revamp the Tigh Na Drochaid Day Centre garden.
8. Working with The Highland Council to produce a Masterplan document detailing proposals for the regeneration of Portree Harbour.
9. Securing funding to purchase and develop the Home Farm site as a community allotment facility and to employ a project officer to support this work.
10. Increasing annual unrestricted income by selling advertising at The Green carpark in Portree
11. Securing funding on behalf of the Community Centre Association to fund the renovation of the small hall and the creation of a new leasable office space.
12. Securing unrestricted reserves of £38,136, of which £10,000 was able to be ringfenced as a contingency fund in case of emergency, as advised by the trusts accountants.

The trust also continued to:

Manage the public toilet facility at the Pier, the helipad facility at Sluggans and the Skate Park facility at Camanachd Square.

The trusts principle funders during the period were:

Highland and Islands Enterprise
Community Land Scotland
Highland Council
Visit Scotland
Coop Community Fund
NHS
Virgin Money Foundation and
Local donations

Project Updates

1. The Gaelic project is ongoing. There was an underspend of £2k so the group have been given flexibility to continue the project until all funds are spent. The funds will support the weekly conversation group to continue until the end of the year
2. The community engagement officer contract came to an end in Feb 2023 and this role has been discontinued under the trust. There may be an opportunity to continue the role under an alternative lead organisation.
3. A public meeting is being held on 17th of May (2023) to establish a new committee with a suitable structure to hold the remaining funds.
4. The Light Up Portree Community Events programme continues to be well received and an small event is planned for the Kings Coronation on bank holiday Monday.
5. ACE Academy has taken on a stewardship role to help look after the Bayfield woodland however both organisations have been busy so activities have been minimal.
6. To date a maximum of 98 uses of the waste disposal unit a month has been recorded in the height of the tourist season.
7. The trust have taken a step back from the Tigh Na Drochaid Garden project and the management team at Tigh Na Drochaid are coordinating with volunteers to maintain the space.
8. The Levelling Up Fund was unfortunately rejected and PBCT are in the process of arranging a meeting with THC to discuss next steps.
9. The Home Farm allotment site has been purchased and a further year of project officer time has been funded.
10. Approx £4k is being generated each year via advertising.
11. The office space in the community centre is on a long let and the small space is being used regularly.

Current Trustees are:

1. Calum Matheson – Chair
2. Peter Urquhart – Vice Chair
3. Duncan Brown - Treasurer (associate)
4. Lorna Cormack – Secretary
5. Annmarie Campbell
6. Neil Campbell

7. Ross Cowie
8. Irene Deplano
9. Bill Edgar (co-opted from community council)
10. John Boyd
11. Graham Smith
12. Tiffany Maberley

(Donnie Nicolson has resigned since the latest accounts were produced)

Max no. of trustees is 20. Minimum number is 5.