

## Struan Community Development Group

<b>Meeting Details</b>	Meeting at 1930 hrs on Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2020 at Fir Chlis, Ullinish.	
<b>Attendees</b>	Peggy Semler (PS), Katrina McGough (KMcG), Marion MacAskill (MMcA), Clare Stones (CS)	<b>Management Committee plus Steering Group</b>
<b>Apologies</b>	Chris Henwood, Sarah Illingworth	
		<b>ACTIONS</b>
<b>Minutes from last meeting and matters Arising</b>	The minutes from the meeting on 10 February 2020 were reviewed and agreed. For Matters arising, see below.	<b>ACTION: PS</b>
<b>Membership</b>	Membership is now sitting at a total of 64 – there have been 13 new application for membership either at or since the Open Day, which were all accepted. A further 2 members have moved out of area and are therefore no longer eligible for membership. The membership and mailing lists have been updated accordingly.	
<b>Finance/Bank Accounts(s)</b>	The bank account still has £3696.78, after the final payment of £2400 has gone out to S&B. We still need to pay towards land valuation (£600), solicitor (£600), David Narro Associates (£1800 to come from SLF to cover) plus S&Bs Quantity Surveyor (£2000), which will leave a residue of around £400. There is also over £3k left of the business planning money from the SLF to call off, so work can proceed. It was also agreed that we should make an application to Struan Community Trust for £500 towards our ongoing running costs of room hire, printing, postage, etc.	<b>ACTION: SI/PS</b>
<b>Stage 1 Activities</b>	The request for a reconsideration of the Land Valuation was submitted on 11 March 2020, but we don't hold out much hope of it being successful. SSEN have come back with details of two options to re-route the powerline – one over ground and one underground – which both come in between £21,000 and £21,400, provided our contractor does the ground works within the site, which seems reasonable. The final feasibility study was agreed and printed copies were made available at the Open Day on 20 February. A copy was also given to Struan Community Trust.	<b>ACTION:</b>
<b>Civic Trust MPM</b>	PS met with Jamie McNamara again briefly on 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb when he was in the area to visit another project. He is very keen to bring his director up and introduce them to the group so it was agreed that we would try to identify a suitable opportunity.	<b>ACTION: PS</b>
<b>Funding &amp; Fund Raising</b>	PS and KMcG met with John MacDonald from the SLF on 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb, to discuss the Stage 2 funding application situation. The initial problem is that our constitution does not currently conform to their Stage 2 requirement with regard to (a) minimum number of members, and (b) open membership. We will therefore need to make the necessary changes at the AGM before we can submit a Stage 2 application, so it seems highly unlikely that we would be able to secure the funds and spend them before the deadline of March 2021. That being said, he also felt that the valuation of the land	<b>ACTION:PS</b>

	was excessive and unrealistic, and he agreed that we should challenge it. There is currently no committed SLF funding beyond March 2021, but he believes that the programme will be extended at some point in the future.	
<b>Archaeology</b>	<p>PS and SI met with George Findlater and Pauline Megson from Historic Environment Scotland on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb, including a visit to the broch, development site and the chambered cairn at Ullinish. We gave them a detailed description of the project and its history, and walked the route of the proposed new access path (which they were enthusiastic about). They have followed this up with a request for the feasibility study (which has been provided). We will follow this up at a later date. They have also since advised that a counter is supposed to be installed on the gate “by the end of March”.</p> <p>We are still awaiting a proposal from AOC for the community excavation, but it has been added to the ballot paper to seek support for it from the community.</p>	
<b>Organisation Structure</b>	<p>Rory Dutton from DTAS came and delivered a coaching session on 2 March. Spent some time discussing the land valuation, and what we should do about that and he suggested we should still consider an Asset Transfer. Discussed option for setting up a trading subsidiary of the SCIO to operate the completed centre to whom the building could be leased. Also possibility of CIC or CBS. DTAS can also provide limited VAT advice via Scott Moncrieff, on request. Talk to other Trusts locally? Changes to Articles (as above) need to be done at AGM</p>	<b>ACTION: PS</b>
<b>Business Plan</b>	<p>Work will continue on the business plan, including info on equipment, fittings, etc, for hospitality areas. Advice documents provided by JMcN to help.</p>	
<b>Temporary Toilets</b>	<p>Quote received for toilets and PS also met with Portree &amp; Braes contact to gain more info about the issue. Need to have power (for hot water) and be cleaned at least once per day. Charge £1?</p>	<b>ACTION: PS (+ John MacKinnon)</b>
<b>Ballot results and way forward</b>	<p>A total of 40 ballot papers were returned after 20.02.20. Only 6 requested we do nothing further (15%). Of the others the most popular was Do it All or Nothing – 14 (33%), Phase 1 initially 9 (23%), Phases 1+ 2 – 7 (18%), and Phase 1 + 3 – 3 (8%). A total of 33 wanted to do something (85%, which is very similar to the original survey in 2017). Support for Toilets was 34 (87%) and for the Community Excavation 28 (72%). The Trustees felt that this was a reasonably representative response and that a further survey or ballot of the community was not appropriate or justifiable at this time. These responses included those that were emailed out to members of the Development Group who had been unable to attend the meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> and were subsequently returned. However the Trustees also felt that in the light of the growing Coronavirus crisis, no further work could be justified on the project (unless people wanted something to do!) until further notice.</p>	
<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	T.B.A.	

