

Struan Community Development Group Minutes of Meeting on 2nd November 2022

Meeting Details	Meeting 2 nd November at 1930 hrs at the Old Manse	
Attendees	Peggy Semler (PS), Sarah Illingsworth (SI), Leslie Charteris, Dave McGough (DMcG), Ken Imrie (KI), Jenny Till and Kenna MacInnes.	Board of Trustees
Apologies	None	
		ACTIONS
Minutes from last meeting and matters Arising	<p>The minutes from the meeting on 5th October 2022 were reviewed and agreed. Signed off by SI.</p> <p>Electoral register says 255, Service Point does not currently have an up to date copy – PS to pursue.</p> <p>Despite a number of new houses having been built, the register is still falling – just more holiday lets? DMcG has trialled some possible logos, to refine and bring to next meeting.</p> <p>PS to pursue Electoral Register as currently no copy held in Portree Service Point either.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ACTION:PS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ACTION: DMcG</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ACTION: PS</p>
Finance/Bank Account/Funding	<p>Bank account still healthy but this still includes £840 for Shopping Bus trip. Still unable to operate account due issues getting PS added as signatory. SI has currently paid £140 bill from VAL her self and will need to be reimbursed at some point.</p> <p>KM and JT agreed to become additional signatories.</p> <p>SI suggested we set up a kitty for tea, coffee, etc.</p> <p>We are still waiting responses from the Community Regeneration Fund to the two EOIs submitted.</p> <p>Scottish Land Fund still around, so will consider applying to that if the above EOIs are unsuccessful.</p> <p>SI needs to prepare accounts and report for 2021-22 and forward to Voluntary Action Lochaber for approval.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ACTION: SI/PS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ACTION:SI</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ACTION:PS/KI</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ACTION: SI</p>
Membership	<p>We have lost one with CS leaving and gained one from the new houses in Ullinish (Dominic Whyte).</p> <p>It was agreed that each Trustee would try to get a further 2 new members signed up before the next meeting, as this would significantly increase the percentage of residents who are members of SCDG.</p> <p>PS to send a copy of the members list and the application form to everyone to facilitate this.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ACTION: All</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ACTION:PS</p>
Shopping Bus Trip	<p>SI - Shiel Buses can only provide a 47 seater coach, and were offering weekdays, to Inverness.</p> <p>SI to contact and ask them for Saturday dates.</p> <p>Alternative might be Dunvegan Minibus – contact is now Catriona Allen – KM to provide contact info.</p> <p>Might be cheaper and more flexible.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ACTION:SI</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ACTION:KM</p>
Muirhall	<p>KBs latest response was reviewed. Basically none of the questions we asked were answered.</p> <p>KI stated that we were not “Near Neighbours” and that we should be treated as a separate category, with a pre-agreed, guaranteed amount of community benefit as we were more directly affected, both in terms of the construction and operation of the wind farm.</p>	

	<p>PS is trying to have a chat with Chair of the MCHA in Minginish.</p> <p>PS and JT both expressed concerns the communities are not talking to each other. PS has talked to Alistair Danter from Edinbane CC, and others are trying to talk to other “Near Neighbours”.</p> <p>PS also pointed out that there was no point in simply rejecting the current offer – need to offer alternative proposal to Muirhall.</p> <p>SI has got the name of someone at Cross Dykes who have had previous experience of Muirhall to call.</p> <p>It was agreed that it would be highly desirable to get all the affected communities talking and working together to obtain a mutually beneficial arrangement. Muirhall are still refusing to hold a public meeting, but the CC are planning to hold one anyway to discuss.</p> <p>KB now on holiday until 7th November.</p> <p>It was agreed that the communities need to take more initiative if anything is going to change.</p> <p>KI pointed out that they are not following THC guidelines.</p> <p>We also know very little about the actual impact on Struan during the construction phase both in terms of static (e.g. a labour camp) and moving equipment (e.g. AILs), so need more info about this.</p> <p>There are now 7 turbines rather than 6 planned for the water catchment area, but apparently Scottish Water do actually have objections to these going ahead, as they did with SSENs pylons. Most of the others have been moved, to a greater or lesser degree.</p> <p>No indication of where BSS will be sited.</p> <p>A suggested list of questions was compiled and that Muirhall should be pushed for 3 tiers of benefit – (1) Struan, (2) Near Neighbours and (3) Rest of the Island. Need to resist decisions being made on the basis of population density. Levelling up must be stressed.</p> <p>Scotland Island Policy – KI drew attention to this and that all islands should be brought up to a basic level.</p> <p>Number of people on the electoral register peaked in 2018, but has been steadily falling since then.</p> <p>It was agreed that PS and KI should go to the meeting, however it was agreed that we should rotate people from the board at future meetings.</p> <p>Concern was expressed that the broadband solution on offer from Muirhall – no one has seen any details in writing - may not be a suitable long term solution, and it might not be a constructive way forward if it could prejudice future developments.</p> <p>They are also clearly still “buying favour” all over the island.</p>	<p>ACTION: PS</p> <p>ACTION: SI</p> <p>ACTION: PS/KI</p>
<p>Other Windfarms</p>	<p>Currently THC Guidelines on Community Benefit are not being operated or policed by THC, primarily due to a lack of resources to do so.</p> <p>PS referred to a spreadsheet she has compiled of all current and proposed wind farm developments, which will result in the current 20 odd 100m turbines being replaced with up to 106 turbines, most of them 200m.</p>	

	<p>We are now in contact with Wind2 re Balmeanach, but situation with Ben Sca is unknown. PS to ask John Mackinnon about this. Vattenfall expected to upgrade as well.</p> <p>Wind 2 (for Balmeanach) are offering electricity subsidy or capital sum for energy improvements to premises within 5km (?).</p> <p>Possible new port could be used by all of them.</p> <p>Skye Connect still not apparently having any position on wind farms in general.</p>	ACTION: PS
Archaeology/Environment	To include the Community Excavation. Deferred to next meeting.	
Fuel Voucher Scheme	Nothing further heard from the Trust so SI to chase.	ACTION: SI
CAP	<p>Meeting of joint group on Monday 7th. CC have got a quote from a preferred contractor, but they can't start till Feb 2023 so report not available till July/August.</p> <p>Position/questions for Muirhall to be agreed at CAP meeting.</p> <p>KI - Islands strategy includes a questionnaire which would give us a guideline for the questionnaire. KI to forward the relevant documents.</p> <p>Agreed that we should give the CCs chosen contractor the questions and responses we gained at the Gala and our premises list, and that completing the CAP ASAP is essential.</p>	ACTION: PS/SI ACTION: KI
Logo/Letterhead	DMcG to refine and bring back to next meeting.	ACTION: DMG
AOCB	Scottish Islands Federation and DTAS: All new members to have a look at their website and discuss.	ACTION: All
Young Persons Award	Explained background to new Trustees. To consider reviving the idea at a future meeting.	
Next Meeting	Monday 28 th Nov at 11 Ullinish @ 7.30pm	ACTION: ALL