

Struan Community Development Group Minutes of Meeting on 28th November 2022

Meeting Details	Meeting 28th November at 1930 hrs at 11Ullinish	
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 2nd November 2022 were reviewed and agreed. To be signed off by SI. There is now a copy of the electoral roll in Portree which has 260 names on it. However a number of people are known to not live here or to have moved away so reality is probably around 240-250 permanent residents.</p> <p>KM has provided PS with contact info for Dunvegan minibus bus.</p> <p>SI has had BT asking to cut a chunk of one of her trees down, allegedly to provide us with superfast broadband. May merit contact with BT</p>	ACTION: PS
Finance/Bank Account/Funding	<p>Bank account currently has £1519.19, which includes £840 for Shopping Bus trip and £140 for VAL. Still unable to operate account due issues getting PS, KM and JT added as signatories</p> <p>SI needs to get accounts and report for 2021/22 inspected and signed off by VAL and the Board.</p> <p>Application to the Trust needs to be done for running costs for next year.</p>	<p>ACTION:SI</p> <p>ACTION:PS</p>
Membership	<p>PS apologised for not signing up new members, KM has got 3. PS has drafted intro document which she can circulate. DMcG to get at Dunvegan, JT says Ana +1 intends to join online. SI has 2 new members. Total 7.</p>	ACTION: All
Shopping Bus Trip	<p>SI - Shiel Buses are providing a 46 seater to go to Inverness on Sat 10 December. 10 people signed up already. DMcG to publicise at Christmas Fair in Dunvegan.</p>	ACTION:SI/DMcG
Logo/Letterhead	<p>DMcG brought revised designs. Could use logo separately and strapline underneath. Monochrome design more flexible. DMcG to bring final proposal to next meeting.</p>	ACTION: DMcG
Funding	<p>Fuel Voucher scheme was proposed to the Trust by SI last year. They were not against it but wanted more detail. The Board felt it was definitely worth pursuing early next year, so SI to prepare funding application to the Trust for £100 for up to 140 households plus postage (to be submitted by 31 December). Would need to be put through all doors inviting people to apply.</p> <p>Feasibility Study - EOI accepted but adverse comments from local ward members, including the suggestions that wind farm money should be used first, despite the fact that the EOI included match funding from the Trust! However as the CAP is now</p>	ACTION: SI/PS

	<p>not due to go ahead until Spring 2023, with the plan due in Jul/Aug, it does not seem appropriate to go ahead with the Feasibility Study before this is available. After discussion of this with the CAP group, we agreed that we would not proceed with this at this point in time, but would try and see whether we could switch the funds to the CAP itself. This was subsequently rejected by the fund administrators. However they that advised that the 4th fund which has not yet opened (the UK Shared Prosperity Fund) is specifically aimed at Feasibility Studies and the like, and recommended we should make an application to this as soon as it is open. It was agreed that in order to meet the requirements of the Asset Transfer Process, plans for a Feasibility Study would need to be in place by around mid-summer, and the report available end 2023, at the latest. (The Asset Transfer process also requires a valuation, a business plan, and demonstrable support from the community before it can be submitted, i.e. by early 2024 when the closure is due to be confirmed. PS has sent a copy of the Asset Transfer procedure to members of all groups).</p> <p>Development Officer – EOI was accepted. Comments which came back from Councillors was very supportive. However when this was discussed with the CAP group, it became clear that the Trust was not prepared to entertain an application for match funding for a Development Officer post, despite the effective offer of funding from the Council. The argument was basically that although they would like a Devt Officer (Full time) at some point in the future, it was too early. This was despite PS pointing out that an application made now would probably not result in an appointment being made until April/May, and that the role would be needed by the time the CAP was complete, if not before. It was not felt that this situation could be allowed to continue indefinitely, so the situation will need to be reviewed again in Spring 2023. Otherwise there will be insufficient resource available to do the preparatory work for any Asset Transfer application for the School.</p>	
<p>Muirhall and Other Windfarms</p>	<p>PS was made aware, by a contact in Edinbane, that a meeting was recently held with Wind2 to discuss setting up a Community Benefits Society in conjunction with Dunvegan and Edinbane to handle the community benefit income and potential community share in the Ben Sca windfarm. No one from Struan attended this meeting, as John MacKinnon was the only person invited and then only 1 hour before the meeting. PS has now asked for contacts in the SCDG and CC to be included on the list for any future meetings.</p> <p>Wind2 are also handling the Balmeanach proposal and will be holding a session at the school on 13 December.</p> <p>It does seem to be generally accepted within the CAP group that we cannot set up individual companies or</p>	

	<p>other organisations for each and every windfarm, as it would be simply be impractical, with a population of 250 people. There is no collective view as to whether we, as a community, should be considering taking up the option of a community share in any of the windfarms at the moment.</p> <p>Faye MacLeod is coming to meet with the collective groups to provide some more insight into wind farms, and organisation structures on 12 December.</p> <p>Muirhall - It was agreed that SI would attempt to arrange a meeting between Muirhall and the SCDG on 15th December.</p> <p>PS said that Ali Mor had confirmed the Struan community groups position with Muirhall in writing, as agreed. No response as yet, although it is anticipated that there will be a meeting between them and the CAP Group in January, followed by an open public meeting. KI believes that it is unlikely that they will make any significant changes, as they will have already made promises to a number of other people/organisations.</p> <p>SI has tried to make contact with Community Energy Scotland, but to date has not had any response. PS has also tried to get a copy of the accounts as they are a registered charity. They, together with the Plunkett Foundation, may be able to provide appropriate training, advice and guidance on organisation structures, etc.</p>	ACTION: SI
Archaeology/Environment	To defer to a future meeting.	
CAP	<p>Carried forward:- KI - Islands strategy includes a questionnaire which would give us a guideline for the questionnaire. KI to forward the relevant documents.</p> <p>Next meeting to be with Faye on 12th December.</p> <p>Not clear what the other groups plans for the school building/grounds may be.</p>	ACTION: KI
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 16 th January at 7.30pm, provisionally at the school.	ACTION: ALL