

Struan Community Development Group Minutes of Meeting on 13th February 2023

Meeting Details	Meeting 13 th February at 1930 hrs at the School	
Attendees	Peggy Semler (PS), Sarah Illingworth (SI), Ken Imrie (KI), Leslie Charteris, Dave McGough, Jenny Till, Kenna MacInnes.	Board of Trustees
Apologies	None	
		ACTIONS
Minutes from last meeting and matters Arising	The minutes from the meeting on 16 January 2023 were reviewed and agreed. To be signed off by SI. DTAS application was carried out on 10 th Feb with SI/PS/DMcG and seems to have gone OK. PS has had follow up and they are happy if we become provisional members. Also noted they have been talking to Muirhall and HIE re community benefit funding.	ACTION: PS
Finance/Bank Account	Bank account currently has £399.91, plus now payments from the Trust of £14,105.21 for Fuel Voucher scheme and £500 for running costs. Still unable to operate account due issues getting PS, KM and JT added as signatories, but SI has finally got form from C Stones, posted on 6 Dec 2022! So will proceed with submitting all the paperwork now (2-3 weeks?).	ACTION:SI
Membership	Now 83. Others still to encourage new people to sign up. PS preparing a new update for members.	ACTION: All ACTION: PS
Logo/Letterhead	DMcG brought revised designs. Agreed to adopt option No. 4. DMcG to forward copy of final design to all Trustees.	ACTION: DMcG
Funding & Fundraising	Applications made to the Trust for (1) Fuel Voucher and (2) For £500 running costs for the SCDG, were approved and have been paid. DMcG & PS have made donation of £70 from sale of calendars. Still have cards to see in future years.	
Organisation: Archaeology/website monitoring	JT has agreed to take on this brief and PS has provided written brief. Main objective is to re-establish our contacts within HES, follow up having a counter on the gate to the broch and review the plan for a community excavation. DMcG has agreed to regularly check relevant website such as the ECU, Highland Council planning portal, etc.	ACTION: JT ACTION: DMcG
Muirhall and Other Windfarms	CAP Group has sent confirmatory email to Muirhall restating our position, following the meetings with them on 23 rd /24 th January. No response as yet. Still holding out for 40:40:20. CAP Group have invited Near Neighbours to a meeting on 20 Feb to discuss Muirhall and other wind farms. CAP mailbox now set up as CAP@struancommunity.co.uk and explanation of CAP group now up on website. It is not clear which, if any, of the wind farm companies we would be interested in buying a share in. Currently information and advice is being sought from the Plunkett Foundation on the options available. They have been asked if they can come to site, or	ACTION: PS/SI

	<p>alternatively DJ Morrison is looking into setting up a video conferencing facility at the school.</p> <p>PS has copy of CLG for Crossdykes but not happy with it (e.g. has no minimum number of directors).</p> <p>Muirhall clearly went to HIE/DTAS to discuss “Skye Wide” fund before discussing with any of the affected communities, but little progress to date.</p> <p>Struan CT can demonstrate it has actively contributed towards several “Skye Wide” project in the past.</p> <p>PS reports that general feedback is that most communities still believe that the majority of the community benefit could go to “Host” communities, and that giving it to central fund will potentially lead to no major projects, and money being frittered away.</p> <p>PS going to talk to Broadford & Strath tomorrow.</p> <p>There still appears to be some unallocated export capacity on the new power line. Most parts of the island have landscape restrictions, so we may not have much further capacity for further turbines.</p> <p>PS and SI reported that the threat to withdraw the 20% of the CIF from Struan was not documented in the minutes for the meeting of the 23rd Feb produced by Muirhall. PS have asked for corrections to their minutes.</p> <p>PS has sent them an NDA for our Premises list but this has not been returned yet. Summary list per postcode was supplied to their contractor, Invisible Link, when they were on site last year.</p> <p>PS and SI need to complete Scoping Response for Vattenfall.</p> <p>Ben Aketil exhibition was attended by PS and SI. Much more information provided on all aspects, including two options for transport components to site. They were due to meet with Dunvegan CT same evening.</p> <p>DMcG pointed out that other developers have been ready to answer questions, but Muirhall never seem to be able to, and don’t get back to you.</p>	<p>ACTION:PS/SI</p>
<p>Governance/other organisations.</p>	<p>PS and SI visited the Raasay Renewables company to discuss Com Ben Soc and other structures, and also visit hydro scheme. Artemis Pana and Chris, both very helpful. They use ComBenSoc and have 50% investment coming from off island. They are still keen to progress the planned hydro scheme at Amer.</p> <p>Pointed us at Kintyre peninsula and multiple wind farms.</p> <p>See above comments re Plunkett.</p>	
<p>CAP</p>	<p>Funding for CAP is approved and CC are expected to sign up contractor to carry it out shortly. Needs to be put in Update for Members. Work won’t begin until April at the earliest. Contract being offered to preferred option.</p> <p>HIE have apparently offered to provide £15k but AM advised to go ahead with money from CT in the first instance.</p> <p>The issue of Governance and what kind of legal entity Struan should set up is now accepted, but needs further investigation and considerable decision making.</p>	

Fuel Voucher Scheme	<p>Funding now approved. Some postage and packing covered in funding, but will email as far as possible. PS has discussed issue of means tested benefit with CAB WRO and they advise that it will be regard as a “one off” payment, not income, so unless they are exceeding their capital allowance, they should be OK. Liaised with another Trust which has done this and they included disclaimer on the application form to cover. Need to include similar and get applicants to sign it. To send forms out during March with payments aimed for April.</p> <p>KI to draft application form. Forms posted through doors to include SAEs. PS to produce list of premises we can’t email and spreadsheet to log responses. PS also to email Hygge as not previously believed to be permanently occupied.</p> <p>Check status of 3 Balmeanach - Eyles – PS</p>	<p>ACTION: KI ACTION: PS</p>
Struan School	<p>There has been some information in the press/radio about the closure, but Education Committee of THC don’t meet until 15th Feb, although this is contrary to what was said was necessary before. Critical thing for us is when the actual closure is likely to come into effect, as we will need at least 3-6 months to be in a position to submit and Asset Transfer Request. We need to submit an Expression of Interest to THC as soon as this decision has been taken. PS to contact COSS (Community Ownership Support Service, part of DTAS) for advice with this. PS to ask Ali to check end date. Public meeting already booked for 20 March.</p>	<p>ACTION:PS</p>
AOCB	<p>Beach Cleaning boat due 20-23rd April to remove debris from remote beaches. PS to organise prep for this. DMcG suggested that we could ask the members whether they have any ideas for new projects, e.g. weekly shopping bus to Portree (used to exist), revitalising planters, etc. in the next update.</p>	
Young Persons Award	<p>To be discussed at a later meeting.</p>	<p>ACTION: ALL</p>
Next Meeting	<p>Wednesday 15th March at 7.30pm at the school</p>	<p>ACTION:All</p>