

Development Coll

MINUTES

Meeting held on Wednesday 1st Oct 2014

- Present** Lavinia Maclean Bristol
Nic Smith
George McConnachie
Juliette Summers (via Skype)
Also potential directors;
Robert Sturgeon, Arlene Casey, Carol Flett, Tom Longden
- Apologies** Huw Roberts
John Fraser
Seonaid Maclean Bristol (on sabbatical)

Lavinia welcomed the potential new directors and briefly outlined the projects DC is working on.

Register of Interests None

Matters arising from the minutes;

George announced a one-off grant of £10,000 from The Robertson Trust. We have been waiting to hear back from them for some time. They need to know how their funds will help us achieve our objectives and outcomes, which currently are about the Mobile mast project, the housing project and identifying new local needs. George has run this past Jim Bennett who is coming to Coll next week, and these will be discussed further then. A point about who authorised how the money was spent was raised.

The MOUs to the funders for the mast electric costs have not been completed.

Housing

The housing group has been busy. We have six possible sites and hope to narrow these down. Next Monday Ailsa Raeburn from HIE and SLF (Scottish land fund) will visit Coll and look at the sites with George and Fra. Some sites may be ruled out at this stage. HIE may do the initial options appraisal. There is still no reply from Scottish water about new connections in the village. A visit to Helmsdale on 15th October is planned by George, Fra and Arlene to look at how they achieved their community housing project. DTAS are giving a grant of £500 to help cover some of the costs. A meeting with ACHA is planned for the end of the month with the housing group and any interested directors. Other housing associations will also be consulted.

An Cridhe

Nic reminded the directors the responsibility for Legionella lay with them, but that George and Jane were managing the risks. There was a brief update on the activities at An Cridhe. The second wedding we have hosted was quite different to the first and we have consolidated our knowledge. The bar took about £2,500. The Hela theatre production made a small loss, which is covered by the A&B grant. This production was more demanding technically than previous ones. We are looking for another artist in residence for next autumn / winter. Bookings for the first Coll Cosmos weekend are good and further dates have been arranged. Carol is consulting with Celine about a formal health and fitness arrangement.

Director Recruitment

Lavinia asked potential directors to put a request to join the board in writing or via email to her.

Mobile Project

SSE are installing the meter early next week. We hope it will be live by around the 10th. There was a brief discussion on how we mark this; Derek may have plans, and we felt it unwise to promise anything until we know it is switched on. Calmac are interested in hiring some space and Derek and a Calmac representative will be on Coll early next week. Robert offered to join them. The Scottish Hydro Community Trust has awarded us £15,650 towards the electric connection. This should give us a surplus which might be used to improve coverage of blackspots, subject to approval by the Scottish government. We expect 75% of Coll to get a signal but the actual coverage can't be known until it goes live.

AOB

None

The next meeting will be on 5th November at 6.30pm. Please note the change of time.

Please note: There will be a meeting on Wednesday 8th October with Jim Bennett at 5.30pm and the Robertson Trust grant will be the main item to discuss.