

Development Coll

MINUTES

Meeting held on Wednesday 5th November 2014

Present Lavinia Maclean Bristol
Nic Smith
Juliette Summers (via Skype)
Lavinia Maclean Bristol
George McConnachie
John Fraser

Apologies Huw Roberts
Seonaid Maclean Bristol (on sabbatical)
Margaret Wheeler-James

Register of Interests None

Matters arising from the minutes

Jim Bennett did not visit Coll.

Director Recruitment

Carole Flett and Arlene Casey were co-opted onto the board of directors and joined the discussion.

Mobile Project

Derek has emailed explaining there is a delay at Vodafone who are waiting for a special part. Once Mono have it they will come to Coll with Calmac who will carry out a site survey with a view to paying to put their equipment on the mast.

The SSE Community Fund money has been received and the project now shows a surplus. The Scottish government will explain how we can spend this. The MOUs have been sent.

Once it is working we would like to get a mobile phone expert in to explain to the island how to make best use of the facility.

Management Committee

- Moved to winter, Karen and Caroline are now working five hours each.
- Hall is busy with sports booking again, new sessions include martial arts.
- Jane is making good progress with the Legionella risk register.
- Teenagers – there were two sessions in the October holidays and a pizza fundraiser at the Sailing ceilidh.
- Healthy Options tie in with Celine – they are keen to support this, it may not be cost neutral to us.
- There has been an approach to hire the kitchen on a regular basis, this may include purchasing more equipment. The MC was keen to see more use made of the kitchen.
- Plans for the future include deciding on Touring Network bookings for the winter and working on an outline of big summer events.
- Basking Sharks bookings are very healthy, and are for longer stays next summer which is more efficient.

- George and Julie are having early discussions with Kip about running Art courses using the Coll Cosmos business model. This means visitors can book accommodation anywhere on the island (hopefully at the bunkhouse) and An Cridhe receives income from using its space.
- We need to start looking at next year's budget; Jim will be coming back to help with this.

Housing

Arlene gave a brief history of the project so far: there is 80% of the cost to build two houses available, six landowners have expressed an interest in selling land, we will need to apply to the SLF (Scottish Land Fund) by May 2015. The next steps are to choose a site by carrying out an options appraisal, get the land valued by the District Valuer and check the landowners are satisfied with this price. A&B Council will now only work with RSLs (Registered Social Landlords) and not communities so we must work with one of these.

We have met with ACHA and have written to Fyne Homes and West Highland Housing Association. The options appraisal can be carried out by our favoured RSL but we would still make the final decision. ACHA have experience of working with communities on house design.

We need to refresh our housing needs survey; ACHA and A&B Council are willing to help with this and Iona (from ACHA) will come to Coll on 8th December to conduct a survey. We will use this opportunity to inform the island of where the housing project is and what we are planning.

We have finally had some contact with Scottish water thanks to Mike Russell and we hope to hear whether village connections will be possible.

The Housing Group has decided it is not appropriate to have interested landowners present at meetings until the land is bought.

There was a brief report about the visit to Helmsdale's housing project and their presentation is available. They also have a harbour project, community fuel project and a heritage museum.

Development Manager Update

We are working with Calmac for the Coll & The Cosmos weekends to provide a complete ticket. Dates for the Bird Festival and the Tunnell trust are pencilled in.

AOB

None

The next director's meeting will be on Wed 3rd December at 6.30pm. Please note the change of time.