

# Development Coll Ltd

## Directors' meeting

### Wednesday 4 July 2012

#### Present:

- **Directors :**  
Seonaid Maclean-Bristol, John Wheeler-James, Colin Scott, Diana McDonnell
- **DC employees:**  
Frances MacIntyre, George McConnachie (Emma Grant was on site and available if required)
- **Members of the public:**  
Peter Ings

#### 1 Apologies:

Romaine Wainwright, Lavinia Maclean-Bristol, Victoria Barstow

**2 Register of interest:** There were none

**3 Minutes** of Directors' meeting of 6 June were approved with the following amendments:

- 1 Apologies – Diana McDonnell
- 5 Turbine consultation – Colin Scott requested that the minutes be clarified to read 'the petition against the AC turbine should take precedence over a ballot'.

**4 Company Business:** SMB has been speaking to Donald Melville of HIE re displacement. Kerry Grant, HIE, has met with SMB. She felt that DC is dealing with displacement appropriately. She is happy to offer additional support from Donald who, along with Lorne Macloud will be meeting with Directors and staff re post HIE transition.  
*Suggested dates: Monday 30 – Tuesday 31 July.*

**5 Wind turbine – results of ballot:** George outlined the results:

Number of ballots distributed: 142

Number of 'Yes' votes: 27 (24%)

Number of 'No' votes: 84 (74%)

Number of spoiled ballots: 3 (3%)

Total number of returned ballots: 114

This was a convincing vote against the turbine. The results will go into the feasibility study and the matter of a turbine at AC is now closed.

Cathy Maclean, Terry Shirvington and SMB had all agreed that the process used for the ballot had proved both confidential and efficient. DC are most grateful to Cathy and Terry for their support.

George had received some comments from members of the community:

- A family had sent their thanks to the Directors for the support they had received regarding their concerns.
- Concern that the 75% majority was unfair. *DC can reiterate that this was agreed at the meeting of 6 June. Majority required for any future ballot will be agreed case by case.*
- Disappointment that the summary document was not on the DC website.
- Limiting the survey to those on the electoral roll did not provide a true reflection of the demographic profile, particularly of Arinagour.
- EGF funding was based on the development of a wind turbine.
- DC was trying to persuade people that the wind turbine was a good thing and was not being objective.
- Unfortunate that the vote went ahead without the feasibility study being seen by the community.

There followed some discussion re EGF funding. *To be discussed further at next meeting.*

The Directors thanked George for his professional handling of the whole process.

**6 Coastal Communities Fund** Stage one was successful and an invitation to submit a stage two bid has been received, deadline 21 September. It is most important that the community has the opportunity to contribute to any proposal. George had spoken to numerous people prior to stage one and is now inviting interested people to join a Harbour User Group. This should be chaired by a non-DC Director/employee, George will help to co-ordinate.

George and SMB have met with Lorna Spencer from CMAL. She is happy to attend a user group meeting in August and to offer support. It will be important to involve representatives from the many holiday makers who use the harbour, as well as permanent residents.

*Please see attached Outline Proposal for Formation of Arinagour Harbour User Group.*

**7 Finance:** Fra presented a report following the May reconciliation of accounts. Shona Wardrop, DC's accountant has been working with Fra to set up SAGE – a new system to DC. SMB thanked Fra for her hard work on this and said that Shona had been most complimentary about the management of DC's accounts.

**8 An Cridhe** – Directors discussed a confidential staffing issue. DC staff and members of the public were asked to leave the meeting for this item. JWJ updated Directors on progress at AC.

## **Outline Proposal for Formation of Arinagour Harbour User Group**

July 5<sup>th</sup> 2012

Earlier this year Development Coll submitted a stage one application form to the Coastal Communities Fund in order to develop facilities around Loch Eatharna. Specifically, DC decided to go ahead with an application aimed at achieving increased business opportunities and improved transport links for the local community. It is also hoped the fund could help improve the visual impact around the bay and encourage further leisure activities.

The initial application has been successful and DC has been invited to submit a stage two application (a comprehensive 38-page document). DC is keen to ensure that any proposed developments have the support of the community and is therefore keen to establish a Harbour Users Group which would establish and prioritise local needs. Although DC would provide input to administer and coordinate the group, it is hoped that it would be chaired by someone from outwith the organisation.

The deadline for submission of the stage two application is 21<sup>st</sup> September, therefore the following outline is proposed to take this forward:

**First week in July:** Community made aware of proposal and those interested in being involved asked to contact DC. Original application sent to anyone interested.

**Mid-July:** Interested parties meet to discuss initial application and potential for Harbour User Group, the scope of such a group and how it should be organised.

**End-July:** Harbour User Group formed, Chair appointed and committee formed. Initial ideas/proposals sought from members on the focus of the CCF stage 2 application.

**Mid-August:** Public meeting to further discuss proposals, ascertain support and outline any potential difficulties. Objective of meeting is to finalise the focus of the application.

**End-August to Mid-Sep:** Individual elements of application outlined – project description, evidence of need, funding required, sustainability of project, timescales involved, impact on the local economy etc.

**By 21<sup>st</sup> Sep:** Application submitted.

**Early October:** Users Group outline plan for future work based on scenario of 1) application to CCF is successful; and 2) application is unsuccessful – what are the priorities that can be achieved without funding?

In terms of establishing the needs and priorities of the local community, this was done to an extent in the lead up to the stage one application. The key activities outlined were: development of a slipway, development of a multi-use storage facility, a centralised location for recycling, improved accessibility around the bay (including lighting for middle pier), and general improvements to the visual impact in the village. If the project was to go ahead then a part-time staff member would be required to coordinate.

It is anticipated that advice would be sought from elsewhere to help determine the business case for the project and the likely costs involved. A meeting has already taken place between DC and Lorna Spencer of CMAL who has offered to support the application and the formation of a Harbour Users Group through the provision of advice and consultancy.