

Development Coll

MINUTES

Meeting held on Wed 8th January 2014 at 5.30pm

Present:

Directors: Lavinia Maclean-Bristol (Chair); Nic Smith, John Fraser (Vice Chair), Seonaid Maclean Bristol (Company Secretary), Juliette Summers by Skype (Jen Royston elected as director during item 5 on the agenda)

Staff: George McConnachie

Members of the Public: Jen Royston (elected as director under item 5) plus two others

1. LMB welcomed everybody.
2. Register of interests – SMB registered an interest in the mobile phone project.
3. Signed off minutes from last directors' meeting.
4. Community housing : update from SMB
 - a. DC to write letter to RecyColl and CCC re possibility of using Old Hall site for community housing **(SMB / NS to action)**
 - b. DC to write letter to community and beyond re possible acquisition of land for community housing project **(SMB/ NS to action)**. Letter to be sent to:
 - i. DC members and wider distribution list – email link in An Cridhe bulletin
 - ii. Notice in village
 - iii. Letter to landowners
5. Company business: LMB
Jen Royston voted on unanimously as new director. No abstentions.
 - a. An Cridhe financial update from George McConnachie
 - i. Income almost exactly on budget for month of December 2013 (within £2!)
 - ii. Bunkhouse income higher than budget
 - iii. An Cridhe lower (however £1200 was received but not cashed within December and will therefore show in January figures)
 - iv. Expenditure £400 higher than planned.... Off-set by additional income.
 - v. Net Loss was approx £400 higher than budgeted.
 - b. Funding applications:
 - i. DTAS application for local development work and enterprising activity: application submitted September, whole process is delayed; currently with Scottish Gov. Will hear in due course.
 - ii. Robertson Trust: following enquiry from GMcC, the trust would welcome another application from DC for a revenue grant – up to £15k of funding. GMcC will make an application similar to the DTAS application i.e. 'strengthening of local community', local development work .
 - iii. Heritage Lottery Fund: looking at using An Cridhe as a source of heritage info for visitors to the island. GMcC will visit "Here We Are" open day on 24th Jan to see how they work and how we might progress.

- iv. Voluntary Action Fund – DC will be making a bid for this fund; closing deadline 28th Feb. GMcC will send out draft application to directors for feedback.

Directors commended George McConnachie on the amount of work he has done in respect to these applications.

- c. AGM: Development Coll's annual accounts for 2013 were signed off for submission to Companies House.

AGM scheduled for Thursday, January 30th, 7.30pm

SMB to prepare letter of invitation to all members

The following directors will present themselves for re-election:

Jen Royston and Lavinia Maclean-Bristol.

(Jen Royston must offer herself for election by members as she has only been voted on by directors. All other directors were elected at the previous AGM, so Lavinia Maclean-Bristol offered to resign and offer herself for re-election.)

Additionally, Huw Roberts will offer himself for election as a director at the AGM.

- d. EGF update – **SMB and NS to meet 16th Jan** to finalise summary of consultancy work completed with this funding.

6. Report from An Cridhe Management Committee:

- a. "Artist in residence" photographer on RSA scholarship stayed for one month in November 2013. Her experience was negatively impacted by being accosted in the village shop, and on a couple of other occasions, by one or two hostile members of the community; this experience may damage the future ability of Coll Bunkhouse to participate in the RSA scholarship scheme in future. Directors agreed that this was totally contrary to the traditional hospitality of the island. **LMB to write to her.**
- b. More gym equipment; exercise bike. Discussing how to spend more money.

7. Mobile Phone Project

SMB left the meeting at this stage because of a possible future conflict of interests.

John Fraser updated the directors:

- a. Only one suitable site is available – Grishipol - owned by Alex and Seonaid. It is being offered for a peppercorn rent of £1 per year.
- b. The Scottish government will fund the project. DC will own the piece of equipment and DC will have to fund the running cost (electricity) of a maximum of £2000 per year. John Fraser has asked for commitments in terms of a percentage of the running cost from Project Trust; NHS Highland; Calmac; Fire Brigade; Scottish Electricity. Water Board are yet to be approached, to assist with the running cost. The services of a consultant have been employed to help with this - Scott, funded by Highland and Islands Enterprise.
- c. The Scottish Gov has a budget for legal costs and equipment namely the cable.

- d. DC need to get legal agreements in place with various parties. McPhee and partners have been approached to assist with the land lease agreement and the ground lease:
 - i. Ground lease - needs to be negotiated with Alex and Seonaid. The mast may make money in the future and this future income may be used to cover DC's commitment to running costs.
 - ii. Site share lease – DC will negotiate with Cornerstone (which is BT and Vodafone).
 - iii. Planning: Argyll and Bute planning website will contain the planning application in the coming weeks. Mobile phone coverage and the possibility of income generation for the community can be seen as beneficial.

SMB returned to the meeting following the conclusion of discussion on this item.

8. Coll Youth Group. DC has approached youth groups to see if they'd like to be part of a youth network to share ideas, resources info etc. Opportunities for economies of scale; funding applications etc. Anna Henderson will be doing more youth activities in New Year. GMCC has drafted a letter to go out but would like it to be sent by a director taking specific responsibility for this. SMB to ask Sarah McCann if she's interested.
9. AOB – DC website nearly completed. GMCC to send link for comment on content. The website will facilitate public access to minutes, feedback, director and staff biographies, FAQs etc
10. Next meeting 5th Feb 2014.