

## Development Coll

### MINUTES

Meeting held on Wednesday 5 March 2014 at 5:30pm

#### Public Session

Present :

Chair Lavinia Maclean Bristol  
Directors Seonaid Maclean Bristol  
Nic Smith  
John Fraser  
Huw Robertson  
Jen Royston (Minute Taker)  
Juliette Summers (via Skype internet link)

In Attendance:

Business Development Manager George McConnachie

Observers: Peter Ings

1. Apologies: None
2. Register of Interest: Seonaid Maclean Bristol registered an interest in the mobile phone mast.
3. The Minute of the previous meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2014 was agreed to be an accurate record.
4. Matters Arising
  - 4.1 Seonaid reported that she had attended a rural housing conference with George last week which provided a good opportunity for networking and gathering information from the Scottish government.
  - 4.2 Seonaid stated that the next stage of the community housing project would be onerous. Following discussion it was agreed that additional capacity was required to complete the funding proposal process. Seonaid suggested that the housing group be approached to see if there is momentum for developing the funding application. Seonaid stated there is an opportunity on 4 April 2014 in Oban and this could be a good opportunity to liaise with HIE as there is the potential to make an application to an HIE fund to get training. Seonaid stated that ACHA could be a potential partner for funding although they have not shown an interest in building on Coll and the Scottish Land Fund could be approached for revenue funding. George stated that there is a buffer namely cash that we have sitting and on top of that £15-20,000 that is not being used which could be used as a short term measure to fund a consultant or additional hours for staff. George stated that he should not be party to discussions about consulting staff and the Chair stated that the matter should be discussed privately with only Directors present.
5. Mobile Phone Mast

John Fraser reported that the planning has been approved and that Nosheb would like to put up poles rather than a cable and that is the preferred option of the land owner which is an advantage to us. John Fraser stated that the leases are almost complete. The main issue is

funding and until we have funding in place then nothing can be progressed. Derek Graham had a meeting with Scottish and Southern Electricity. John Fraser has already received a commitment from the health board and Project Trust however he is waiting for a reply from the Fire and Rescue service, the water board, the council and Calmac.

**Action: John Fraser**

## 6 Management Committee Update

6.1 Nic reported that health and safety inductions had taken place and John stated that he will be conducting fire training next week. Nic reported that An Cridhe would like some space in the planned shed and the show and the marathon committees could be approached to provide funding and Fra will be looking into costings and planning permissions.

6.2 A calendar of activities has been organised for An Cridhe. There is money to spend on exercise equipment, there is a new bike and a pully stand has been ordered. Nic reported that there are problems with solar panels.

6.3 After discussion concerning funding for arts events it was decided that George would look into additional funding for music events.

**Action: George McConnachie**

## 7 An Cridhe Update

7.1 George reported that DETAS funding was not successful. The Roberston Trust application will be sent off once it is reviewed by Directors and most likely the three year funding request suggested by Jim Bennet will be followed. George reported that the Voluntary Action fund application has been sent.

7.2 George reported that he had visited an organisation on the banks of Loch Fyne who have charted the changes to their community over the years online. After a demonstration of the website Glenfyne.org.uk it was decided that this would be a community resource not a means of business development for AC. George reported that he had had a meeting with Nic Maclean Bristol and both had decided that neither had the time to progress the Heritage Lottery fund application.

7.3 George reported that Rathlin Ireland Community Group is going to visit Mull, Tiree and Coll on 9 April 2014 researching community assets, development of local business, renewable energy, storage of petrol. An Cridhe will be paid £250 to facilitate the visit. George will put together the itinerary for the day and send it to the directors.

**Action: George McConnachie**

7.4 George stated that following on from the Staff Review, from May 2014 onwards George will be three days a week then October onwards Jane and Fra will be working 16 hours per week.

7.5 George stated that a strategic review for Development Coll board is needed and suggested that the Board attend DETAS run training on strategy costing £600 with the outcome being a three to five year plan. George stated that Jim Bennet will be here on Tuesday 10 and 11 March 2014. George reported that there are four or five visits with Jim Bennet remaining and Huw suggested that one of these visits be used for strategy. George will obtain further information about the training including the maximum number of Directors who can attend

and ask Jim if he thinks it will be beneficial.

**Action: George McConnachie**

8 Finance

George reported that the business was £4000 above budget because of the big lottery grant revenue that came in. We were £200 down on our trading income for February 2014 and that the bunkhouse January and February were slow, it is anticipated that April will be a busy month. It was agreed that more business over the winter period is something to be addressed. George reported that expenditure was as anticipated, the net profit was £9800 against a budget of £8400. There were extra expenses, the reason for the difference is that this is the first year that we have not budgeted for additional staff.

9 Change of Lawyer

It was agreed that Development Coll will continue to use the solicitor Jonny Bell who has now moved to TwinDeer law, it was noted that he has been a great asset to the Board.

10 Budget Approval

The Budget was approved by the Directors. Seonaid suggested that it would be useful to have a break down of the income streams of each proposed activity in the calendar.

11 Any Other Business

Seonaid stated that there is a rural parliament workshop in Oban. George stated that there is a two part social media course on Monday 24 March 2014 which intro to social media and then a social media strategy. It is a business gateway course that has been organised by RecyColl. There is also governance training on 5 and 6 April from James Hilder.

12 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 2 April 2014 at 5:30 pm at An Cridhe