PBCT AGM, 6th November 2019.

The Venue, The Fingal Centre @ 7pm

**Minutes**

**Present:** Alexander MacDonald (AM), Graham Smith (GS), Ross Cowie (RC), Irene Deplano (ID), Neil Campbell (NC), Catriona MacDonald (CatM), Roddy MacHugh (RM), Janice MacHugh (JM), Jimmy Macleod (JM), Catriona Maclean (CMac), Jen Pearson (JP), Duncan Brown (DB), Douglas MacDougall (DM), Bill Edgar (BE), Calum Matheson (CM), Annmarie Campbell (AC), Ella Liley (EL), Roger Liley (RL), Matt Harrison (MH), Faye Macleod (FM), Tim Moore (TM), Christine Moore (CM), Donnie Nicolson (DN). Fiona Thomson (FT)

**Apologies:** Chris James, Dorothy Urquhart, Shona Cameron, Janice McGuire, Mairi Evans, Alistair Danter, Nigel Waterson, Councillor John Gordon, Elgar Finlay, Hugh Campbell, Myra Macleod, Sophie Isaacson (SI)

1. **Chairman’s Report on Activities of Trust:**

DN as chairman opened the AGM and thanked everyone for attending. DN explained that there has been significant growth in the last year with the trust administering an estimated £170k of funds. DN further explained that there are 7 active subgroups which are comprised of at least one trustee and other volunteer members of the community. Each group reports back to the monthly trust meeting to ensure that projects are coordinated, and communication remains strong between groups.

1. **Update on Projects**

FT as development officer provided an update on each trust project:

**The Harbour:**

In the last year research and development in relation to the harbour has continued. Ten board members regularly attend meetings. The group have met with Willie Rennie, leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, Kate Forbes and Paul Wheelhouse Minister of energy, connectivity and the islands to raise awareness of the investment required at the harbour. Most recently, they have created a brief for a “Sketch” document which they aim to lead on, and which will produce an up to date, masterplan outline proposal for the whole of Portree. The sketch would encompass not only the harbour but other key areas such as Camanachd Square, Bayfield and general traffic and pedestrian access in and around the town. AM – The group were about to pull the trigger on this piece of work and the Highland Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise indicated that they would like to be involved. All parties are now looking at working together to fund this piece of work. The approach is based on the successful FW2014 master planning work that has recently taken place in Fort William. The project itself will need integration at government level and the urgency of the situation needs to continue to be highlighted until the powers that be take notice. Agreement that significant pressure is now required.

**Bayfield:**

The group continue to maintain the picnic area at Bayfield for public use. £85 has been secured from the Scottish Land Fund to purchase the site of the tennis and squash courts and in partnership with the Highland Council and The Portree Tennis and Squash Club £300k has been secured from the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund to develop a community owned car and motorhome parking facility in this space. £300k will be loaned from the council to complete the capital costs. The group are working with Highland Council (HC) to confirm the terms of the lease agreement. The trust anticipates that approx. 20-30k per annum will be received in income however this will depend on the terms of the loan. Plans are being considered alongside longer terms plans for the harbour. DN – income from the car park will be pivotal to any future harbour development and will be received within the first year of operation. DB thanked CMac for her previous work in proposing plans for Bayfield as they are very close to the ones which are being proposed today.

**Toilet provision:**

The trust continues to operate public toilets at the pier. Advertising revenue covers the costs of cleaning and maintenance. These costs are supported by donations made by the public for using the facility. DN explained that the trust is looking into having a custom made pay per use facility installed. JP – could more information be presented at the toilets for visitors to see where funds go?

**The Outdoor Activity Group:**

The Outdoor activity group has three local members, one of whom sits as a trustee. This year (2019) they worked with a range of other volunteers to deliver a popular Easter event which raised over £600 for relevant projects. An additional £1000 was donated by the Rabbies Community Fund. The Skate ramps have been in use since November 2018. Maintenance is ongoing.

**Health Services:**

£16,484 was raised by related local groups in Feb to fund a project officer post for 1 year to provide administrative and communications support for community representatives on the Sir Lewis Ritchie Report Implementation Group. The Health Services group is comprised of 3 trustees and 1 trust member. This group, alongside the development officer oversees this project. Sophie Isaacson submitted a project update which FT delivered:

As a result of community engagement surrounding the Ritchie report Urgent Care at Portree Hospital opened 24/7 in June 2019, two Advanced Nurse Practitioners were recruited to work in Portree hospital alongside the current team and the hospital has pushed to recruit a larger team to (hopefully soon) open the additional 6 beds. The Scottish Ambulance Service have also recruited 6 additional staff, and have changed from 'on-call' to shift working. They will be based in the hospital from mid-November onwards. Raasay has been successful in recruiting new nurses who will cover the island and the coordinators of the first responder programme have met in a variety of townships and have been running training events for local people. The steering group is now looking forward to an options appraisal relating to community beds for North Skye which will be held between February and April 2020. Sir Lewis Ritchie will visit the steering group again in May 2020 and Sophie will be working on a new project looking into recruitment and retention for North Skye.

CM highlighted that an additional £1.6million per year of investment has been secured as a result of the Sir Lewis Ritchie Implementation Project. TM stressed the importance of the community being involved in the options appraisal for community beds and finding solutions to looking after our aging population closer to home. Details of the options appraisal were given.

**The Helipad:**

The trust continues to successfully manage the facility. Improved signage has been installed. Donations are received by users.

**Allotments:**

The Locahalsh and Skye Housing Association (LSHA) is progressing the transfer of the identified land on behalf of the trust. Portree Home Farm limited hold a security over part of the plot. Solicitors have proposed that that the security be reconstituted to release the housing association from the terms of the security and substitute PBCT. This is ongoing. Duncan Burd from Anderson MacCarthur in taking this forward on behalf of the trust.

**Fundraising:**

Promotional and fundraising events included: a stall at the Skye Show, a curry and quiz fundraiser evening at a local hotel, a 20 mile sponsored walk from the most northernly to the most southernly point of the area, a soup and pudding lunch at Braes Hall, hospitality at the Accordion and Fiddle Club annual ceilidh, an Easter fun day and marshalling at the local half marathon event. A dedicated fundraising sub-group has been established by trustees.

**Events:**

A community events groups has been established under the trust. Over £2000 has been raised to date for Christmas Lights, A Christmas celebratory event and hopefully a Hogamany street party with live entertainment.

**Paths and Signs:**

A community paths group has four members. They work on a variety of projects improving access to and maintenance of green spaces in the area. They run monthly clean up clubs and are working on improving signage and information on walking routes in the Portree and Braes area.

**FEI land purchase:**

An application to the Scottish Land Fund for funds to purchase the Lump and Bayfield will be submitted by mid-November regardless of if the application for the King George the V (KG5) playing fields is ready. There has been delayed with the application for the playing fields as the trust are still negotiating with the seller on the price. DN congratulated CM on his hard work continuing to maintain the KG5 pitch to such a high standard.

**Membership:**

The trust has added 30 individuals to its registers of members taking the total to over 400.

**Communications**

A quarterly e-newsletter is now available. 137people have subscribed. The trust has featured in 18 press articles in the last 12 months. The Trust currently has 2492 followers on Facebook.

**Staffing**

There is one full time development officer who is in post until June 2021 and one part time project officer who is in post until Feb 2020.

1. **Accounts and Finance**

DB as treasurer delivered a summary of the latest accounts. Running costs are around £3k per year. The trust has been advised by their accountants that we need a reserve of around £8k based on outgoings. FM as trust accountant reiterated the importance of having adequate reserves and congratulated DB on his work as treasurer

1. **Proposed Alterations to Constitution**

FT explained that the harbour group would like to register an interest in the land at the pier head currently owned by the Certas Energy company. This could be done under part 2 of the land reform act (Scotland) 2003 – i.e The Community Right to Buy, and would provide communities, who successfully register a community interest in land with the first option to buy when the registered land is offered for sale.A registered interest in land lasts for five years (from the date of approval from Scottish Ministers) and the sale must involve an owner who has decided to sell (termed a 'willing seller')

In order to be eligible the trust must update their constitution **so that membership is**  open to any individual aged 16 or over who resides within the Portree and Braes area, as detailed on the Community Council Boundaries map and is entitled to vote at a local government election in a polling district.

RL, CatM and CMac congratulated trustees on successes over the last few years. RL highlighted that the importance of working on small projects where the community can see results as well as the more long term projects.

1. **Election of Trustees**

Matt Harrison was nominated as trustee by Shona Cameron. This was seconded by RM.

Jen Pearson was nominated by Chris James. This was seconded by CatM.

Donnie Nicolson was nominated as chair by RC. Seconded by RM

Calum Matheson was nominated as chair by CM. Seconded by AM

Duncan Brown was nominated as treasurer by GS and ID

Annemarie Campbell was nominated as secretary by GC. Seconded by RM.

1. **AOCB**

**Hustings:**

RC proposed a hustings. DN seconded. All in support. To be arranged in due course.

1. **Close**

DN thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.