**Portree and Braes Community Trust (SCIO)**

**Minutes of Trustee’s Board Meeting**

Wed 17th July 2019 7pm @ Jans

Present: Janice Mcguire (JMc) Irene Deplano (ID) Chris James (CJ) Ross Cowie (RC) Jen Pearson (JP) Neil Campbell (NC) Janice McHugh (JM) Roddy McHugh (RM) Duncan Brown (DB) Donnie Nicolson (DN) Fiona Thomson (FT) Graham Smith (GS)

Apologies: Bill Edgar (BE) Shona Cameron (SC) Margaret MacDonald (MM) Annemarie Campbell (AM)

Adoption of Minutes: Approved RC Seconded: CJ amendment: CJ attended previous meeting.

Treasurers report: DB delivered the treasurers report. Toilets at the Pier are currently generating approx. £30 per month. There is £4541 available balance in the bank. It has been complicated to arrange reimbursement from the NHS. Agreement has been made to avoid purchasing on their behalf in future if possible.

1. FEI:

FT fed back. [ ] the estate representative was in touch and it was agreed that the district valuer would be asked to carry out a valuation re: the KG5 playing fields and the Suliasiadar Common Grazings. The Next deadline for the applications is the 12th August.

FT drafted a management agreement for the Lump between the Skye Gathering, the Skye Games and PBCT. CJ – asking a solicitor to prepare / review this agreement would give the trust peace of mind. FT to continue discussions with party representatives

1. Harbour:

FT – the harbour group are continuing to meet monthly. They are considering submitting Community Right to Buy application to in regard to the CERTAS site. 10% of the trust membership is required to sign a petition in support of this. [edit: 10% of the Portree and Braes electoral role] Signatures are to be collected at Skye Show. GS suggested that collecting signatures online might also be effective. RC asked if the Certas Site has been valued. DN confirmed a valuation has not been carried out yet.

DN – there were some concerns within the harbour group that trust members may feel they would be overstepping their remit by pursing a masterplan for the wider central Portree area. All agreed that the subgroups should be encouraged to use their skills to develop projects for the greater good of the trust.

FT – the harbour group are finalising a brief for phase 1 of the project. This will provide concept drawings based on consultations to date and be used to pitch the groups vision to stakeholders. The group anticipate this piece of work costing around £10k and that it will be valuable in helping to secure funding for the full masterplan and outline business case.

1. Bayfield

DB – the highland council team are not yet charging for parking at Bayfield and have given no indication of when this will happen. Parking charges were due to be introduced in April 2019. This is frustrating as it was anticipated that the temporary carpark on the tennis courts would be generating income for the community by this stage. JMc raised concerns that Bayfield is badly congested.

Bill recently attended a brief meeting with the highland council re: consultation for the Bayfield project. A community consultation is due to go ahead around the end of August. BD - The Bayfield group would like to take the lead on this to ensure that the trust have adequate input re: date and content etc. FT - we have since discussed dates for a consultation preparation day and are looking at the 25th or 26th of June. Willie Mackinnon is going to confirm availability shortly. It has also been proposed that there is an opportunity provided for people to feedback online for a period of 6 weeks until the end of September.

1. Outdoor Activity Group

CJ gave an update. Options for improving access to the woodland at Bayfield are being explored. The group have identified professionals who have experience in creating accessible paths, seating, play equipment and guided trails in woodland spaces that they might like to work with. FT showed work by WildChild Designs to demonstrate some example ideas. Mo is going to speak to contacts at the Housing Association to gain some professional advice on how to develop and improve access to the space. There is a meeting scheduled with Caroline Dear on Friday 26th July to walk around the area and discuss ideas for developing the space. Caroline studied botany in Dublin originally and then qualified as an architect.

FT applied to Coop Community fund on behalf of the group to be considered as one of their three community projects that people can vote for over the 12 month period. Possibility to secure around 20k. They make one payment after 6 months and another at the end of the voting period.

1. Health Services

RC fed back. 24/7 urgent care is up and running and going well. Health care group are looking to secure Sophie’s role for next year. FT and RC are to review Sophie’s project budget.

1. Events

FT – a meeting with the Highland Council head of lighting from Fort William is scheduled for 18th July. £1770 has been raised to date. On behalf of the group FT has applied for £10k to the ward discretionary fund. A likely outcome is £5k. FT has also applied to Event Scotland for funding to enhance Hogmanay celebrations

JP is holding a fundraiser on Saturday where people can drop in a buy a customised tote bag. 130 bags have been purchased and are to be sold at £10 each.

1. Paths and Signs

FT – the application is 50% complete for planning permission for advertising boards.

The Jans sign maker is starting back in early August and will be asked to produce a directional sign for the Pier toilets.

SC noted that more people have erected signage up at top of pier steps and that this looks crowded and messy. DN highlighted that the businesses who have erected the signage are supporting the trust through purchasing advertising.

FT – the next clean-up day was scheduled for Saturday 20th at the last meeting. Group agreed to reschedule for Saturday 27th at noon so as not to clash with Lifeboats Open day. DB to speak to lifeboat contact re: having outside of toilets power washed. DU has donated her strimmer for the use of the community.

1. Fundraising:

FT – ID is organising some cake makers for the Skye Show. Dot will organise urn and hot plates and a generator for teas and coffees. DU can also donate scones. FT to source tables and arrange rota. JP has soup cups if required.

1. Toilets:

DB has had keys cut for the pier toilets. FT to deliver to Pier Hotel who have agreed to lock them at night.

1. Stormyhill Stores

Stormyhill Stores are up for sale for £130,000. RC – are there any viable opportunities for the trust to purchase this business and protect it from adverse development? All agreed that it is a valued community facility, but no viable suggestions were put forward for development.

1. Black Memorial Hall

FT – the trust has been approached by individuals interested in using the listed Black Memorial Hall as a mixed wellness, community and exhibition space. They have proposed leasing the hall should the trust take ownership of it and secure funds to restore the building. All agreed that the building is an eye-sore, but that pursuing ownership and restoration is not a priority for the trust at the moment.

1. AOCB

None.

1. DONM

Wednesday August 14th 7pm at Jans.

1. Close