**Portree and Braes Community Trust**

Meeting: Wed 14th February 2018

In attendance: Donnie Nicolson (DN) Calum Matheson (CM)

Chris James (CJ) Dorothy Urquhart (DU)

Ross Cowie (RC) Neil Campbell (NC) Bill Edgar (BE)

Irene Deplano (ID) Janice McGuire (JMcG) Shona Cameron (SC)

Apologies: Myra Macleod (MM) Duncan Brown (DB)

Graham Smith (GS) Thomas Wilson (TW)

The Chairman

(DN) welcomed those attending the meeting and was pleased with the good turnout of numbers.

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes had been circulated to members: proposed as correct (CM) seconded (DU).

Treasurer’s Report

In the absence of the Treasurer (DB) the Chairman gave an up to date report on the financial accounts. Main account £17,407. The Chairman drew particular attention to the funds raised at the recent Burn’s Supper held in the Tongadale Hotel where over £2,000 was raised. He gave a special thanks to Calum Matheson and his staff for an excellent effort.

Activity Group

(CJ) gave an up to date review of the activities of this group: Mobile Skate and Bike ramp waiting for final funding decisions. Prices had been received for the ramp/trailer/and insurance quotes. Options being looked at were “supervised activities” and possible involvement of “High Life”. (MM) although not present has previously suggested that shortfall in funding could be helped by donation from money raised at the Burn’s Supper. (CJ) hopes that this group may organise fundraiser nearer Easter. Various suggestions were made regarding further approaches for funding eg windfarm groups and Royal Engineers may be interested in helping with part funding/construction.

F.E.I

Public consultation: The public consultation held at the Community Centre on Monday 5th February was very well attended (approx 100) by members and local community. General feeling was of a very positive consultation on process. Various ideas and suggestions had been raised outwith the work being carried out already. Eg Otter “Hide” at Bayfield and possible path/track linking field by cemetery extension in front of Aros to the Varragil Bridge (lower) on the Braes road. A follow-up meeting to be organised with F.E.I representatives.

Project Officer

(DN) Reported the Trust is now in a position to advertise the appointment. There should be an advertisement in the WHFP in the coming weeks, with a 2 week window between advert and closing date for application. Discussion took place re who would be involved in the interview process/appointment. It was suggested Rory Dutton/Myra/Faye might be involved but a decision on this would be made at a later date.

Harbour Group

(DN) reported on recent developments. It was hoped to have an early meeting with Crown Estate representatives for discussion on Pier. The sub-group hopes to visit Tobermory and Mallaig Harbour Groups to discuss how their operations work etc. The sub-group are hoping to receive a copy of the Council’s structural report and to meet with representatives of the oil tank. It has been suggested that the Trust might organise a beach clean for the area round the pier and Beaumont Crescent. It might be possible to involve other groups eg High School pupils.

The poor condition of the slipway was raised and it was felt that the Trust should go ahead to complete concrete repairs.

Pier Toilets

(DN) gave details of possible arrangements for re-opening the pier toilets. It was hoped that £2,900 would be raised from advertising and various suggestions were made re further income sources, eg percentage of income from cruise ships arriving at pier/bay, also advertising inside cubicles on A4 flyers etc.

Jan’s have been looking at the possibility of their cleaning staff might be used for cleaning the toilets. Jan’s would bill the Trust for this service.

It has been estimated this would be approx £3,500 to include toilet rolls etc.

Bayfield

(DU) gave details of work completed at Bayfield eg latest delivery and installation of picnic tables and benches. £3,500 has been promised from Rabbies Tour Company for the project. A “cheque handover” is scheduled for Thurs 22nd February at Bayfield at 9.30am. WHFP have been notified and hope to attend along with as many Trust members as possible.

The Sconser stonemason has given a quote for wishing well and firepit. It was felt this was more than expected and a decision was made not to pursue the matter. Alternatives would be considered.

It is likely the sub-group would install some method eg floor tiles/paving slabs to protect the table surfaces from portable barbeques.

Fundraising

(ID) reported on progress of arrangement for Curry and Quiz Night at Braes Hall on Saturday 3rd March at 7.30pm. Tickets are printed and available. Posters to be put up around the village and Braes by Friday 16th February. Information given to WHFP for inclusion in “Criomagan” and “What’s on?”.

A.O.C.B.

D.O.N.M.

Wednesday 14th March 2018