**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Portree and Braes Community Trust (SCIO) held on Tuesday 6 February 2024 at 6.30pm in Portree Community Centre (Small Hall).**

**Present**

Malcolm (Calum) Matheson (Chair of Trustees), Peter Urquhart (Vice-chair), Graham Smith (Trustee), Duncan Brown (Treasurer), Ross Cowie, (Trustee), Annmarie Campell (Trustee), Irene Deplano (Trustee). Members: William Edgar, Roger Liley, Sharon MacRae, Ewan MacRae, Janice MacHugh, Catriona MacLean. Associate Members: Ian Renwick. Staff: Fiona Thomson (Development Officer), Iona MacDonald (Finance & Administration Officer).

**Welcome**

Calum Matheson welcomed everyone to the meeting. A presentation on the King George V Playing Field was on view in the Hall and a range of foods were enjoyed by those attending, prepared from vegetables grown in the Portree Allotments. Thanks to Colum from Skye Inn for assistance with the food preparation.

**Apologies**

Trustees: Neil Campbell, Tiffany Maberley, John Boyd, Lorna Cormack. Members: Pam Simmister, Cllr Drew Millar.

**Approval of Minutes of last AGM (April 23)**

The Minutes were approved, proposed by Graham Smith and seconded by Irene Deplano.

**Chairman’s Report**

2022/23 was another excellent year for the Trust. PBCT completed some key projects and turned a staff team of two into a staff team of three through the recruitment of Iona MacDonald as part-time Finance and Administration Officer at the start of May 2023.

Some of the highlights from the year include:

* securing £38,000 to enable the Portree Community Centre Association Committee to carry out essential works and re-open the community centre to the public;
* after over a decade, bringing the allotments site into community ownership;
* working with the Matheson Place Playpark sub-group to raise over £95,000 for a new playpark;
* continued success of the Light Up Portree community events programme; and
* completing the “Re-imagining Camanachd Square” masterplan. £31,500 of grant funding was invested in business planning, concept designs, building surveys and community consultation. This work created a strong case for the trust to pursue community ownership of the whole area which will in turn create opportunities for income generation and community benefit.

As always, I must extend our gratitude to Highlands and Islands enterprise, The Highland Council and The Scottish Government for their ongoing funding which supports the Trust to employ the staff team. I would also like to thank the many members of the local community and the business community who have sponsored Trust projects this year and helped to deliver projects in the area. A special thanks goes to our accountants Campbell, Stewart, MacLennan and Co. for their ongoing advice and guidance.

Our success in this accounting period is also directly linked to the hard work of our voluntary board of trustees. We made extraordinary progress in this period and I’d like to personally thank every trustee for their energy, commitment and consistency in driving the Trust forward.

This year, our plans are to:

* secure funding to take the King George V playing fields into community ownership – the next and crucial step in the Camanachds Square community buy-out;
* further explore development opportunities at Bayfield waterfront;
* deliver a community engagement programme around the allotments; and
* utilise the Finance and Administration Officer to create new internal administration systems and adopt new accounting software to make trust as effective as possible.

Thank you all for another excellent year. I look forward to continuing to work with you all on Trust projects in the coming year.

**Treasurer's Report**

The Accounts for the year to 31 May 2023 were presented. The full accounts and report are available on the PBCT website. There are 11 groups operating under the PBCT banner and 4 project officers. The groups are required to be self-supporting and budgets are ring-fenced. The Trust has 4 projects itself, being Bayfield (Carpark and Woodland), Pier Toilets, King George V Purchase and Trust Operating Costs. The King George V purchase fund is currently progressing a fund-raising campaign through JustGiving and buy recruiting support within local businesses to “buy a square”.

**Election of Office Bearers**

Chairman – Malcolm (Calum) Matheson was re-elected to this role, proposed by Peter Urquhart and seconded by Graham Smith.

Vice-Chair – Peter Urquhart was re-elected to this role, proposed by Calum Matheson and seconded by Irene Deplano.

Treasurer – Duncan Brown was re-elected to this role, proposed by Peter Urquhart and seconded by Ross Cowie.

William (Bill) Edgar had recently retired from the Board of Trustees and was presented with a small gift from the Trust in consideration of his service.

New Trustee Appointment – Pamela Simmister was proposed by Calum Matheson and seconded by Duncan Brown.

**AOCB**

**King George V Playing Field**

Interest in the use of the King George V field was noted in respect of the Skye Rugby Club, currently playing at Plockton although the condition of the pitch was not currently suitable. It is likely that a Users Committee will be set up once purchase has progressed. It was also noted that the Football team had been asked not to use the pitch during winter in order to protect it. It was also brought to the attention of the Trust that the plastic pitch at he High School will shut to public use in April. A further request was made by Roger Liley that the pitch should not be improved to such an extent that it would not be available to the public. Currently, a great deal of work was required to bring it to a playable condition.

**Tim Moore**

The meeting recorded their sadness at the loss of one of the Trust’s most loyal supporters, Tim Moore, recently. Tim, with his wife Christine, had been a tireless volunteer at community events and during the “call to arms” in Covid lockdown when delivery drivers were sought. A message of condolence would be sent to Christine.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The next Annual General Meeting was proposed to be held on Tuesday 3 December 2024.