**PORTREE & BRAES COMMUNITY TRUST**

**TRUST BOARD MEETING**

**Minutes**

Wednesday 17th June 2020, 7pm

Via Zoom

1. **Present:** Graham Smith (GS), Fiona Thomson (FT), Roddy MacHugh (RM), Janice MacHugh (JM), Duncan Brown (DB), Matt Harrison (MH), Shona Cameron (SC), Neil Campbell (NC), Janice McGuire (JMc) Donnie Nicolson (DN), Ross Cowie (RC), Jen Pearson (JP), Chris James (CJ).
2. **Apologies:** Irene Deplano, Annemarie Campbell, Bill Edgar
3. Minutes Approved: MH Seconded: RM
4. **Update from the Chair**

DN provided an overview of the previous month’s activity:

* Skye Community Response (SCR) activity ongoing but existing projects are being revisited.
* SCR is in a strong financial position but must be incredibly careful with the funds raised. A proportion must be kept aside to address any potential crisis situations that occur because of a second wave of COVID-19.

1. **Treasurers Report**

* A strimmer has been purchased for the Helipad.
* £1k approx. has been spent on legal fees for the purchase of the tennis and squash court site.
* Annual insurance for the trust has been paid at a cost of £1100
* The Keeping in touch group of pupils with additional support needs at Portree High School are incredibly grateful for the funding provided by SCR to purchase play equipment and highlighted that this will make a significant improvement to the support they can provide.
* The toilets are not generating income and we are not receiving advertising fees so this column has zero funds. We need to be mindful of this.
* The annual accounts have been submitted.

1. **Skye Community Response**

* It was suggested that HIE be asked to fund a higher percentage of Sophie Isaacson’s wages due to her dedicating almost a hundred percent of her time to the Skye Community Response project since April and frequently working additional hours. This will be explored, and FT will feedback.
* FT explained that Dunvegan Trust have agreed to fund 50% of the funds requested for the SCR/Ritchie post. Many thanks to Dunvegan Trust for agreeing to support this project and for their patience over the past 6 months. 50% was funded on the basis that Sophie would likely be delivering on SCR projects for 50% of the year and on Ritchie report for the remaining 50%. Dunvegan Trust cannot approve applications for repeat funding. The Health services group is incredibly pleased with this outcome as they were not expecting to receive anything from Dunvegan this year. Dunvegan Trust have also donated £1k towards health care legacy equipment.
* SCR steering group meetings are now fortnightly and are still attended by councillors and representatives from across the island. The most recent meeting was on the 5th June.
* Sophie chairs a separate community leads meeting every fortnight where volunteer representatives from across Skye and Rasaay can share challenges and ideas relating to their local community support efforts.
* Sophie also chairs a fortnightly communications meeting with Portree based contacts to plan local response. Representatives from the Community Council , Am Fasgadh, Young carers, Tigh na Drochaid and Viewfield Garden Collective attend.
* Donnie chairs a separate PBCT team meeting on Mondays to discuss weekly progress mainly relating to SCR activity.
* At the time of the last meeting there were:

8 people in hospital due to coronavirus in NHS Highland area and

338 Confirmed cases (by NHS)

* A plan is in place to withdraw accommodation for health workers at the end of June.
* A contingency plan is being developed should there be a 2nd wave of C-19. This will involve the creation of “Fast Boxes” which are emergency supplies of PPE, Scrubs, etc.
* Cllr. Calum Munro and Ross Cowie are meeting with David Park, NHSH, regularly to keep an open line of communication.
* PBCT are into their 4th week of their food share partnership project. Community Council members are leading the evening sessions week nightly at Tigh Na Drochaid.
* The food share is open 8 -9pm, 5 nights a week. This will change to later time when small Co-op changes its opening times.
* The most households provided for in a single evening is 20.
* Rescue Bags have taken a lot of work to set up. SCR are taking requests via the helpline and directing them to community contacts in Raasay, Staffin, Minginish, Dunvegan, Edinbane and Sleat who are in turn working with local shops to provide the rescue bags. Drew Millar is following up on rescue bag requests for Portree. 20 rescue bags in total have been issued.
* Between 60-70 cooked meals are being provided each week to individuals in Portree and Braes whose names have been put forward by representatives on the Portree Communications group. Meals are being cooked by the Pier Hotel Restaurant who are doing an incredible job.
* PBCT has been distributing hand sanitiser donated by Diageo. The Young Carers and Viewfield Collective have received some. There is still plenty more to distribute in Portree and Braes.
* FT is also distributing firewood on behalf of SCR which was donated by Magnus Burd Tree Surgery.
* Prescription deliveries are ongoing coordinated by Myra Urquhart and delivered by Sandy Gray.
* The phone line is receiving around 10-20 calls per day.
* The SCR Bikers are now being administered by Pam Simmister and this is working well.
* The JustGiving fund is currently at £56,460 and increasing by the day. The most recent initiative was set up by Skye Events encouraging people to walk, run and cycle. The Òr Skye Relief raffle has been phenomenally successful. Well done to all involved.
* To date, including JustGiving, Skye Community Response has raised £120,000, + gift aid.
* SCR have also received a request from Portree High Schools’ key worker hub for assistance with equipment and supplies to support the hub. This is being considered.
* MH on behalf of ACE Target Sports has been working with the team to develop a raffle and is due to launch it at the end of this week.

1. **Health Services**

* A final Urgent Care recommendation has been implemented - the Fast Response Vehicle is up and running. This vehicle does not carry passengers but paramedics and other necessary personnel. It will be used to support local fast response and is particularly effective if the local ambulance is off island. The Fast Response Vehicle will not leave the island and is a great asset for this reason.
* The Ritchie meetings are officially on-hold however community representatives are still meeting with the NHS to keep an open line of communication and recommendations such as the fast response vehicle are progressing in the background.
* RC - The SCR project grew from the Ritchie project and there might be an opportunity to create a common fund for health care on Skye as a legacy for SCR.
* Homefarm Nursing Home is going through a court case currently, the outcome of which will dictate if the owners will be able to keep their license to operate the home.

1. **FEI Land Purchases**

* No progress with the Lump and Bayfield purchase since last meeting.
* The boundary of the KG5 must be clarified before SLF can provide funding to purchase the land. The final deadline is the end of August. It is unlikely that issues will be resolved by then. FT to contact FEI with an update.

1. **Bayfield**

* The trust will cover the Tennis and Squash Club’s legal fees to enable the transfer of land to be completed. FT to have a conversation with the club re: if the trust can be reimbursed for this.
* The 26th of June has been suggested to the trusts solicitors as the date of entry.
* The trusts solicitor is progressing matters.

1. **Paths and Signs**

* BE has offered to lead a session on Saturday to tidy up the picnic area at Bayfield. FT to coordinate.

1. **Outdoor Activities Group**

* CJ does not foresee any progress on the surveys at Bayfield being likely over the next few months due to current situation with COVID-19.
* Insurance for ramps currently in place until end of August. If we stop paying the insurance, we have to remove the ramps.
* Unlikely to have full use of the red pitch until end of summer.
* SC suggested alternative locations. Could the unused area by the link road be a possibility?
* Could supervised activity be held at the High School? CJ will revisit this idea.
* Could the Red pitch be resurfaced? A very smooth surface is required ideally for skating.
* Proposal accepted to cover the cost of the ramp’s insurance until next summer and then review if this is a cost the group are happy to continue to meet.
* Agreement made that Coop funds can be used if required to cover costs.
* FT to fill out the Coop questionnaire on the basis that the funds might be used to cover costs for ramps.
* Sponsorship could be a solution going forward to cover costs.

1. **ACE Academy**

* MH shared his proposal to further develop ACE Academy – a social enterprise which provides learning and development opportunities to young people through outdoor activity such as bush craft etc.
* Potential to link activities into the curriculum and create learning opportunities surrounding renewable energy and growing etc.
* Still in the development phase although trials have already been delivered.
* Would like to keep the trust up to date on developments to see where there might be opportunities to work in partnership.
* DN – great idea and would be a fantastic asset for the local community and local young people. MH to keep the trust up to date with developments.

1. **Men’s Shed**

* There could be potential for working with ACE-Academy here. MH will speak to RM re: ideas.
* Otherwise no recent progress.

1. **Events**

* No recent progress but the events group are keen to hold an event at Christmas and would like to meet up in July if possible.

1. **Toilets**

* Closed for the foreseeable. The Greens toilets which are operated by the Highland Council are now open as usual.

1. **Harbour**

No progress

1. **Community Centre**

* DB is working with LC to update the signatories on the community centre bank account. This has been complicated and is proving a challenge.
* The centre has still to be cleared out. A date can be set for this when restrictions allow.

1. **Fundraising**

* Significant activity via SCR but no Portree and Braes specific activity ongoing or planned.

1. **AOCB**

* JMc – Mark Crowe (Skye Bike Shack) has accepted a new part time position as project officer for the 2-year Sustrans funded project to kick start the development of a cycle network for Skye.
* This is a long-term project and Mark has been in touch looking for feedback on his communication plan for gathering information from communities.
* JMc, BE and ID have agreed to represent Portree and Braes and feed into the consultation process where possible.
* FT has fed back and suggested that they use visual examples or case studies where possible to highlight examples of where other areas have been successful in creating cycle networks.

1. **DONM**

* 15th July 7pm on Zoom

1. **CLOSE**