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

**Minutes of Trustee’s Board Meeting**

Wed 5th February 2020 7pm @ Jans

1.Present: Shona Cameron (SC), Bill Edgar (BE), Jen Pearson (JP), Ross Cowie (RC) Roddie MacHugh (RM), Janice MacHugh (JM), Neil Campbell (NC), Matt Harrison (MH), Donnie Nicolson (DN), Fiona Thomson (FT), Graham Smith (GS), Duncan Brown (Duncan Brown)

2.Apologies: Chris James (CJ), Irene Deplano (ID), Janice McGuire JMc) Annmarie Campbell (AC) Calum Matheson (CM)

3.Minutes Approved: RC Seconded: SC

4.Treasurers Report: DB delivered the treasurers report. The trust has £2,700 left in their general funds. The events group have £6,500. RC suggested a report be sent out in advance of the meeting for trustees to review.

5. FEI: FT - Funding has been approved for the purchase of the Lump and Bayfield. This will include funds to employ a part time project officer to kick start the development of the lands so preparations for recruitment can begin. All funds are to be spend by end of March 2021. The contract will be signed and returned shortly. The KG5 application has been submitted. The trust will be notified in March is this funding bid has been successful. If successful, the trust will receive £15k towards the cost of the land. The remaining £20k required by the sellers will need to be fundraised by the trust. DB – could the Coop be approached for some of this amount? DB will settle the outstanding bill from the district valuer’s office re: the KG5. The board has agreed to use the donation from Skye Live to cover some of this cost.

7. Harbour: FT – the most recent meeting in January was positive with the senior highland council (HC) officers committing in principle to funding an overarching plan for Portree that would consolidate existing studies. The harbour group are still waiting to hear back formally from Malcolm Macleod deputy chief officer for HC. They have however indicated to the ward manager that the highland council may prefer to look at an overarching plan for Skye opposed to Portree. DB and others were concerned that this approach might dilute plans for the harbour. FT to report on developments.

8. Bayfield: DB – negotiations are ongoing. The trust has submitted a counteroffer to the highland council and will report back once an agreement has been finalised. Katie MacDonald the trusts solicitor has been commissioned to act on behalf of the trust. Faye Macleod has provided invaluable advice. GS - The trust will own 42% of parking spaces. DN - The Highland Council have indicated that they are approximately £1000 over budget which will increase the amount of borrowing required. DB – once the contract is signed works should be able to begin within 10 days however works have been delayed so far due to ongoing negotiations. A local contractor was offered the work but could not complete it within the original given timeframe. BE updated board on the plan for the removal of trees. The trust can complete the works as discussed but may need professional help to remove the large trees in the corner by the squash court. FT to follow up.

9. Outdoor Activities Group: Group pursing required surveys are a first step. Rob Forrest has submitted a quote for a vegetation survey. He would expect to have this complete by June 2020 and stated that a study would capture the vegetation in the area to be developed. This would cost £1000. FT to secure a second quote and report back.

10. Health: RC reported back. 300 invitations have been sent out regarding the upcoming options appraisal re: where hospital beds (palliative care or rehabilitation beds) should be provided within north Skye. It’s a “once in a lifetime” opportunity for north Skye. RC will be attending 5 out of 6 of the sessions. The health group are still waiting to hear back from the north Skye windfarm trusts re: the extension of the project officer post.

11. Events: JP reported back on events group meetings. A 40’s style tea dance / fayre has been proposed in May to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) day. The archive centre is preparing an exhibition which the event group would like to tie into their events programme. DN advised the group to chase the company who provided the Christmas tree for confirmation of reimbursement.

12.Community Centre: FT – a condition report has been commissioned to the value of £2151. A site visit has been booked for the 11th of February. DN – if a temporary committee can be formed decisions regarding the immediate future of the building can be made. Currently the committee does not have all office bearers in place which can cause delays.

13. Paths and Signs: FT - Had a team meeting on Tuesday. There were five in attendance. Clean up Club confirmed this week for Sluggans Woodland Park. FT met with Jirina Batters today who briefed her on the Sluggans Group and their plans. They have recently secured £1k for works and are applying for further funds. Heavy works are being carried out on Friday and the clean-up club will carry out some light path clearance work and attempt to improve the drainage at the rear entrance. BE – is waiting to hear back from ex Paths Officer Donald Kennedy re: advice on how to organise path improvements to Ben Tianavaig. SC – the paths group agreed to promote the advertising opportunities at the Green as a first step. Once advertising is sold arrangements can be made to purchase the notice boards. All agreed to sell spaces for £1000 + VAT. A rough plan was also made for the Clean Up Club sessions. Janice McGuire had approached the landowners at the Varrigal bridge who would prefer that a session did not take place there. Other locations that have been suggested. FT to coordinate. FT to also remind DN about reviewing stock of the tear off maps.

14.Toilets – FT to forward to trustees the proposal from Malcolm Henry re: the payment facility design for the pier toilets. The cost to build and install the system is £1,600 + VAT.

This will include any modifications that are required due to design deficiencies and free technical support/training for the first 12 months. The facility would accept card payments and cash. DN proposed that this was paid for as a loan from the trust. RC – seconded.

15. Men’s Shed: RM - A group meeting was held at Tigh na Drochaid on the 12th of January. The group are considering holding a public meeting later in the month one evening at a suitable venue in town. Options for a workspace are still be considered.

16. Water Fountain: FT – A member of the Skye Climate Action Group has approached the trust to ask if the PBCT would work in partnership with them to apply for funds to install and operate a water fountain system in Portree. All agreed for FT to follow up with this opportunity.

17.Harry’s Retirement: FT – a member of the community has been in touch asking if the trust could organise a collection for Harry from Stormyhill Stores retirementment. All agreed that the trust should support this, and trustees will think about the most appropriate way to approach a collection or acknowledgement.

18. Fundraising:

GS – on behalf of the Rotary asked if the trust would like to provide teas and snacks at the break at the primary school quiz on 2nd March. All agreed. JM and RM to make arrangements.

Curry Night: All agreed on selling tickets for £15 per head. FT to coordinate alongside trust members. Enough curry for 60-65 to be made please.

Car wash: DB to speak to the fire department re: use of water for this event. DN and DB have pressure washers which could be borrowed.

FT to follow up on quote for gazebo sides.

19. AOCB – FT to forward proof of Struan award for Project Officer to DB

20.DONM’s – 4th March