**PORTREE & BRAES COMMUNITY TRUST**

**TRUST BOARD MEETING**

**Minutes**

Wednesday 15th July 2020, 7pm

Via Zoom

1. Present: Donnie Nicolson (DN), Fiona Thomson (FT), Duncan Brown (DB), Janice McGuire (JMc), Iona MacDonald (IM), Graham Smith (GS), Roddie MacHugh (RM), Janice MacHugh (JM), Neil Campbell (NC), Chris James (CJ), Shona Cameron (SC), Ross Cowie (RC).
2. Apologies: Matt Harrison, Annemarie Campbell, Jen Pearson, Bill Edgar, Lorna Cormack
3. Adoption of minutes: NC Seconded: DB
4. **Update from the Chair:**
* DN summarised the contributions Skye Community Response (SCR) have made to the community of Skye throughout lockdown. As a result of work carried out communications have strengthening between the Highland Council, Voluntary groups and NHS Highland.
* SCR are moving to a stand-by position and are beginning to reduce the hours/days of the telephone helpline, prescription deliveries, and bikers runs. They are beginning a tactical withdrawal of PBCT staff to get back to day-to-day business as some projects are time-critical.
* Phone lines are open 5 days now. 12 – 15 calls are received a day.
* Prescriptions runs have been reduced to Tuesday and Friday
* Bikers now operate on request basis rather than on a rota system.
* Portree and Braes Trust are funding the Pier Hotel to produce around 100 cooked meals per week in the area.
* DN acknowledged the need to be transparent and suggested a statement should be issued to the press.
1. **Treasures Report:**
* DB – most of the financial activity has been connected to SCR
* Cannot thank those involved in the fundraising enough. It is an incredible achievement.
* SCR have spent approximately £70k to date on the project.
1. **Skye Community Response:**
* IM - Fundraising is still going well:

Skye Ultimate Experience -£5,500

Slig drive in movie night - £2,300

Dunvegan Hotel Coffee morning - £600

Just Giving total - £95,043 including gift aid – equating to around £10 for every person on Skye!

* FT - The Dispenser Project has been costed at around £15 – 20K.
* This will provide sanitiser and dispensers primarily to voluntary groups who manage high traffic venues such as community halls and churches who otherwise would not be able to meet the cost themselves.
* SCR are also supporting locations in Lochalsh on the basis that we share the same catchment areas for hospitals and care homes and if there is a surge of the virus in lochalsh Skye will be directly affected.
1. **Health Service:**
* RC - The Ritchie report project is due to re-start in August.
* Sophie’s post is now fully funded until February 2020 at least.
* Sophie has been funded to coordinate Skye Community Response work until February 2021 if required. It is expected that the need for this role will diminish over the course of the next few months and during this time Sophie will gradually resume her original role as health services project officer.
1. **FEI Land Purchase:**
* FT - FEI I have asked their mapping technicians to quote for the preparation of definitive plans for the King George V, Meall and Bayfield pieces of land on the basis that they are willing to cover the cost of this work.
* DN - It is unlikely that this will be complete in time to submit for the final deadline of the Scottish Land Fund. There is however likely to be future funding opportunities available and any progress we can make with the mapping now will improve our chances of securing funds in future
1. **Bayfield:**
* FT – Construction works at the carpark have now recommenced. No indication of completion date has been given.
* There has been another delay with the transfer of the land due to a legal issue. Katie MacDonald (solicitor} will deal with this when she is back in the office after the 20th July
* DN – can PBCT share the footage on Skye and Lochalsh memories of the squash courts being demolished please.
1. **Paths and Signs:**
* No progress
1. **Outdoor Activity Group :**
* FT - Has received a quote for £720+ VAT from Zenith Surveying for topographical work at the woodland area at Bayfield.
* FT – Is waiting to hear back on general availability of Zenith Surveying but would like to source a second quote for comparison.
* SC will provide a contact for a second quote
* FT - Still to fill out Coop online form. Will get around to that shortly.
1. **Men’s Shed:**
* MH and RM have discussed the possibility of siting a container at ACE base where the Men’s shed could operate from.
* MH – Men’s Sheds operate in different ways. Some are focused on growing / gardening, others on car mechanics for example, others on woodwork. This group has the potential to have a bush craft focus if sited at ACE base. More discussion required.
* DB – the old church is for sale on Staffin Road for £60k. This would be a suitable location for a Men’s Shed but the trust would be restricted in how fast they could move with a purchase especially given the imminent closure of the Scottish Land Fund.
1. **Events:**
* The group are considering a date for their next meeting to make some provisional plans for winter events should restrictions allow.
1. **Toilets:**
* A decision has been made to leave the harbour toilets closed for the time being.
* GS – there are not enough visitors to both the harbour toilets and the pier.
1. **Harbour:**
* FT - A meeting is set for next week to review options. This will be the first meeting arranged since the covid-19 outbreak.
1. **Community Centre:**
* £5k was secured from the HIE Supporting Communities fund to relocate the Food Share to the foyer space of the community centre.
* This fund will cover the cost of reviewing the electrics, painting the space, and purchasing essential equipment such as tables, chairs and shelving.
* A clean-up crew will meet on Saturday to carry out painting and cleaning.
* DN - A home is required for the large bespoke reception desk. No suitable suggestions put forward.
* DB – is working with the Royal Bank of Scotland to resolve the issues re: accessing the community centre association banking account.
1. **Fundraising:**

See Skye Community Response

1. **AOCB:**

Portree Graveyard:

* The local police station have been in touch to say that they have had complaints that this site is being misused as a den and a campsite and is there anything they can do to work with the trust to improve use of the space.
* RC has been working on a plan for improving the space for a few months already and has been in touch with police to explore partnership opportunities.
* RC has had a walk around with Professor Norman MacDonald to discuss the site’s historical significance.
* As a starting point, strimming has taken place.
* Murdo Nicolson has carried out some research on the site which is in the archive centre.
* The graves would require restoration. The war commission and the war graves fund would be options for financial support.
* There is huge potential for Iona to link this site into project development at Bayfield and the Lump.
* It’s a long-term project.

Wentworth Street:

* FT – the proposed plans for removing parking on Wentworth street to allow social distancing are being reviewed.
* The Portree & Braes Community Trust submitted an email alongside a letter from the Tongadale Hotel, both which raised concern over the lack of community consultation in this decision.
* Correspondence was discussed at the weekly ward meeting and plans will be on hold until at least the 15th July at which time they will be reviewed by officers and the Local Members.
1. **DONM: 12th August 7pm on Zoom.**