**PORTREE & BRAES COMMUNITY TRUST**

**TRUST BOARD MEETING**

**Minutes**

Wednesday 19th August 2020, 7pm

Via Zoom

**Present:** Neil Campbell (NC), Donnie Nicolson, (DN), Fiona Thomson (FT), Matt Harrison (MH), Graham Smith (GS), Chris James (CJ).

**Apologies**: Bill Edgar, Janice MacHugh, Roddie MacHugh, Jen Pearson, Lorna Cormack, Irene Deplano, Duncan Brown, Janice Mcguire, Shona Cameron, Ross Cowie

**Adoption of minutes:** Chris James Seconded: Neil Campbell

**Treasurer’s Report:**

* In the absence of the treasurer FT read the accounts. FT highlighted that the funds available to cover running costs are low - there are only sufficient funds available to pay for the upcoming accountancy fees and insurance costs in 2021 and no contingency funds. A plan is required urgently.
* The treasurer would prefer to fundraise where possible rather than to dip into existing funds. A car-boot sale was suggested.
* DN – fundraising in the current climate is going to be challenging and efforts may be counterproductive.
* GS – on this occasion could unrestricted funding from other columns make up the shortfall?
* CJ proposed that funds from the Coop fund are used to meet running costs as permission has already been given for these funds to be used as needed. The outdoor activity group are confident that funds for the Woodland project could be identified elsewhere. £3.5k has already been issued by the Coop and another 2 instalments are due before the end of 2020.
* FT will feedback to the treasurer, identity exactly what costs are required for 2021 running costs and agree a plan.

**Skye Community Response:**

* FT fed back. There are currently approx. five calls per day to the helpline.
* Most volunteers have gone back to work. Sophie is answering calls and picking up on voicemails when volunteers are unavailable. Sophie is also delivering some prescriptions (There are currently twice weekly deliveries, but this may reduce to once per week soon) and coordinating the Skye-wide vegetable deliveries. These roles combined require at least 20 hours to undertake – most Sophie’s allocated hours.
* Sharon Fenlon and Drew Millar have been recruited by the trust on self-employed basis to manage Portree Food Share until September. This has taken some weight off the existing staff and volunteer team
* The Portree Food share service is now open 5 days a week 2pm – 9pm.

**Wentworth Street – social distancing:**

* Concern was noted regarding the lack of social distancing on Wentworth Street currently. Attendees discussed the merits of installing signage and / or sanitiser stations to encourage social distancing however it was decided that this would not make sufficient impact on the issue.

**Health Services**

* NC – the community leads group is to reconvene tomorrow night to discuss the options appraisal re: community beds in North Skye.
* The health services group is going to propose that a chair is elected for the community leads meetings to help manage the tensions that are arising within the group and create a better structure to work within.

**FEI Land Purchase**

* FT - Katie Macdonald [solicitor] will resume work to progress the land conveyance on returning from annual leave.
* FEI have indicated that they will carry out the mapping work required at KG5 however no time frame has been given for this and FT is not confident they will move quickly.
* If the Scottish land fund reopens next year, which is likely, the trust can apply again for funds to purchase the KG5 but only if the mapping work is complete.

**Bayfield**

* The purchase has almost been finalised. Katie Macdonald [solicitor] has indicated that she will be able to submit the certificate of title to SLF this week. After 14 days the funds will be drawn down.
* Once the land is transferred the lease can be signed.
* The HC are open to proposals about the trust fitting a pay per use machine on the waste disposal unit for campervans at Bayfield. In the existing plan the service is offered for free however the trust sees an opportunity here to raise income. FT to discuss further with Malcolm Henry.

**Harbour**

* Crown Estate revenue funds are soon to be issued to local authorities. There may be an opportunity here to secure some funds to progress feasibility work. FT will keep an eye on this.

**Paths and Signs**

* Clean up club – a date is set for Saturday 12th September.
* Suggestions of locations to be forwarded to FT
* CJ – various locations could be identified to ensure that those coming can socially distance
* FT will ask people to confirm attendance in advance.

**Outdoor Activity Group**

* CJ – the group have signed and submitted the conditions of appointment to Kindelan Grant Architects.
* Iona has attended an initial meeting regarding the project with the OAG and has been briefed on project details.
* FT will continue to work alongside Iona to progress the project.

**Men’s Shed**

* No progress

**Events**

* Bands provisionally booked for NY. Reindeer provisionally booked for sat 21st November.
* A Christmas lights switch-on and late night shopping event has been proposed for Friday the 20th as a separate event.
* All events dependant on restrictions in place at the time.

**Toilets**

* FT - at final stages of setting up account with NYAX the company who operate the remote payment account. Toilets to open when system is in operation. Cleaner is on standby.

**Community Centre**

* DN and FT had a meeting with Faye Macleod who provided some valuable advice re: development options for the community centre and Camanachd Square area.
* Faye is going to touch base with The Highland Council to gauge their thoughts on an asset transfer and feedback. If feedback is positive Faye would recommend submitting an EOI.
* DN – the condition of the building is not as bad as it looks. Significant progress can be achieved through community support.

**Portree Graveyard**

* RC progressing discussions with potential partners.

**Allotments**

* Harriet Forrest from Skye Climate Action group has been in touch to inquire about status of project.
* No progress with transfer of land and LSHA indicate that the legal issue stalling the transfer is not likely to be resolved in the near future.
* Harriet has also contacted the HC to inquire about other plots of suitable land.
* A site opposite Howdens has been suggested.
* FT to attend a site visit with Harriet

**Newsletter**

* FT – to produce four issues a year is not realistic. Will propose to advertisers that this is reduced to two issues per year.

**AOCB**

Aros Woodland

* CJ confirmed that the Aros woodland is under offer and that this would therefore not be a potential purchase for the trust.

**DONM’s:**

16th September 2020 7pm via Zoom.