

## **Approved Minutes of the Coigach Community Development Company**

### **Director's Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> March 2011, 7pm.**

Present: Iain Muir (Chairman), Nick Clooney (Vice-Chair), Julia Campbell, Ben Walton, Phil Shaughnessy, Ann Macleod (AAB), Steve Husband, Anne Macleod, Linda MacLeod, Peter Muir (Local Development Officers), Joseph Peach (Youth Representative).

1) **Introduction and Apologies:** Apologies were received from Ian Macleod and Richard Williams. IM welcomed Joseph Peach to his first meeting as Junior Representative, and expressed our thanks to him for taking up the position.

2) **Minutes** of Meeting of 24th February 20011 were approved subject to two small amendments, proposed by NC seconded by PS.

### 3) **Matters Arising:**

Up-to-date minutes are now on the CCDC website.

SH has liaised with Tommy Beavitt re transfer of funds to CCDC and this is in hand. **ACTION: ongoing**

The CCDC suggestion boxes in the shops, PO and hall will be collected in over the next week. **ACTION: LM**

Newsletter – It is felt that the community wished information about what the CCDC are working on, and to this end LM to send out some draft text this week for comment. LM is attending a desktop publishing course in Lochinver on Friday 25<sup>th</sup>. **ACTION: LM**

The Polbain Paths group are happy for the CCDC to take on their paths project. **ACTION: LM and PM to progress.**

CCDC as a letting agent. Possible costs and income were discussed. Letters are to be drafted to owners of second homes in the area and owners of holiday homes in the area who do not live here to see if they would be interested in using the CCDC as an agent for either private long-term residential lets or holiday lets. **ACTION: LM AND PM.**

#### 4) LDO Report:

The planners had requested additional information (and a £100 advertising fee) in connection with the wind monitoring mast and our application is now being considered.

PM has continued enquiries as to land ownership of Drumruine with a view to the community [and/or ATA] creating a visitor information point. Action: **ACTION: PM to continue enquiries.**

The Local Development Plan requested by HIE was discussed. It was felt that enough consultation has been done to commit the ideas raised to a development plan.

A date for the AGM and an information evening was set for 20<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm.

#### 5) Report from Community Energy Subgroup

PM reported back on a meeting between SWT and CCDC on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March. SWT had requested a meeting discuss the possibility of a micro-hydro scheme. SH voiced reservations about the ability of the grid capacity to support more than one renewables project, and of stretching LDO capacity too thinly. It was agreed to write to Jo Pike of SWT to thank her for her time, state our interest in looking at micro-hydro, and to ask for clarification of figures she produced. It was agreed that the main interest of the CCDC is to go ahead with the project which shows the most promise in terms of sustainable income for the community. **ACTION: PM**

It was agreed that the hydro scheme discussed at the last meeting should continue to be pursued, and Alison Hitchings had kindly offered to progress this. **ACTION: AH ongoing**

#### 6) Report from Land and Housing Subgroup

SH had received an email from Dorothy Stott regarding possible housing plots at Acheninver. As some points made may be pertinent to future affordable housing discussions for CCDC SH brought them to our attention - namely that consideration would be made of containment within the local development plan, whether land was

suitable for cultivation, signs of previous habitation, access issues, and the importance of community support for a site.

A letter head for CCDC was decided upon and letters to landowners can now be sent out. **ACTION: LM**

It was brought to our attention that the hydroponicum is for sale. An interest by the community is currently registered. **ACTION: SH to seek confirmation of sale and price.**

#### 7) **Report from Piers and Harbours Subgroup**

Following discussions with Kevin Peach, Ullapool Harbourmaster, and various LDO contacts in Wester Ross, the EFF fund has been identified as a likely source of funding for work on Badentarbet Pier, although the suitability of the fund is still to be investigated. It was agreed that a feasibility study is desirable in order to assess options for development and to support any future funding applications. LM discussed a feasibility study with John Porteous of Wallace Stone, Dingwall, who suggested a ball park figure of 9-10K for such a study. LM had contacted Donald Fisher, chair of Scourie community council, to discuss how they had gone about renovating their pier. Of interest was the long-term leasing arrangement they have from Highland Council. **ACTION: LM to identify other consultants who could carry out a feasibility study and lodge a project enquiry form with LEADER to fund this.**

#### 8) **AOCB**

NC expressed thanks to Ben Walton for agreeing to be our treasurer. **ACTION: IM to arrange for BW to be signatory.**

NC raised the possibility of some of the CCDC projects being beneficiaries of part of the legacy fund kindly bequeathed by the late Alasdair Scott. The Polbain Paths project was muted as a possible suitable project, for consideration by the family. **ACTION: All - to discuss suitable projects to put forward for consideration.**

The CCDC becoming a registered charity is likely to become more and more pertinent. **ACTION: LM and PM to prepare for this.**

9) **Date of next meeting**

MONDAY APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup> 2011 7 PM

The meeting closed at 21.15 approx.