

Minutes from Board of Directors' meeting of Coigach Community Development Company,

Monday 16th May 2011, 7pm.

Present: Steve Husband, Phil Shaughnessy, Ben Walton, Ann Macleod (AAB), Nick Clooney (Chairman); Linda MacLeod, Peter Muir (Local Development Officers).

1) **Introduction and Apologies:** Apologies were received Iain Muir , Julia Campbell, Anne Macleod, Joseph Peach (Youth Representative), and Richard Williams.

2) **Minutes** of Meeting of 25th April 2011 were approved by Phil Shaughnessy and seconded by Ben Walton.

3) **Matters Arising:**

Drumruine: Peter presented an update to the Coigach Tourist Association, which was well received. **ACTION: PM, ongoing**

HIE Development Plan: The writing of this is ongoing, as workload permits **ACTION: LM, PM, ongoing**

The CARES stage 1 application has been successful, and we are ready to proceed to the stage 2 application **ACTION: PM**

A Freedom of Information request has been submitted to the Crofter's Commission to clarify the status of the land around the Island View area.

The letter to the Scottish Government to confirm our interest in the Hydroponicum is in hand. **ACTION: IM**

Peter and Steve are to attend the All Energy event in Aberdeen and a hydro event in Aberfeldy this week.

Peter has checked our Articles of Association and he believes they are adequate for our current and foreseeable needs.

Financial records – Iain to pass relevant paperwork to Julia Macleod and Ben Walton, and to arrange for Ben to become a signatory in his role as Treasurer. **ACTION: IM**

4) **LDO Report:**

A solicitor has been chosen (MacLeod and McCallum). Our planning application re the wind turbine is still pending.

5) **Newsletter.**

A draft has been circulated and final comments are requested by Friday 20th May. After looking at the three quotes obtained it was decided to use Dingwall Printers, and opt for black and white copy. The newsletter is to be distributed in Coigach by the beginning of June, in plenty time for the AGM. **ACTION: LM**

6) **Report from the Community Energy sub-group**

Terms have been submitted for the wind turbine site, which SWT can use as a basis for their agreement. The CARES Stage 2 application is to be submitted by June 9th. We need to raise 10% of costs to cover our activities re this project up to 31st March 2012. Most of these costs, we hope, can be covered by in-kind contributions. **ACTION: PM to progress Stage 2 application.**

A meeting with SWT on the possibility of a micro-hydro scheme is to be held on 26th May, and Ann is to notify the Achiltibuie Common Grazings Clerk of this meeting. Those attending the meeting from the CCDC have put in a lot of preparatory work for this meeting, and the importance of investigating in full all possibilities was acknowledged, in order to secure the best return for the community. **ACTION: AAB**

7) **Report from Land and Housing Subgroup**

The letter to the Scottish Government regarding the forthcoming Hydroponicum sale is in hand, and will be with them by the 20th May. We discussed the need to begin to formalise our project ideas for the Hydroponicum– to assist the debate at our AGM

and any possible subsequent funding application. **ACTION: PM and SH to prepare a list of project ideas**

The peat track and hill route section of the proposed Polbain Path has been awarded money from the Highland Council Core Paths Implementation Plan. Linda met with Phil Waite, access officer, and the proposed contractor on site last week. In discussions that followed Phil Waite informed LM that we did have an option of contracting this work out locally, if we took responsibility for this. It was agreed that this would be an appropriate option for the CCDC, to maximise the benefits to our community. **ACTION: LM to contact Phil Waite to confirm our intention, and advertise this locally**