

## **Approved Minutes CCDC Directors' Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 2014 7.30pm**

Present: Iain Scott, Ann Macleod, Theresa Ross, Steve Husband, Iain Muir (Chair), Ben Walton, Maureen Fraser, Phil Shaughnessy.

In Attendance: Julia Campbell, Anne Campbell, Peter Muir.

By Invitation: George Farlow (Chair, North West Highlands Geopark)

Apologies: Peter Harrison (Coigach Representative, North West Highlands Geopark)

**1. Geopark:** IFM introduced GF, and outlined to him the background and purpose of the CCDC, and an overview of the projects we are working on. At this point GF declared three interests: he is on the Highland Council Planning Committee; he is chair of Ullapool Community Trust; he used to work for the owners of the hydroponicum site. GF then updated us on the Geopark, who are now a company limited by guarantee, with the aim of becoming a charity, and having received short term core funding are now recruiting two Geopark Officers. A principal focus for the Geopark is to deliver geo-tourism, in particular by creating a Geocentre in Scourie, which will house the Shelley collection and be a showcase for the rich local geological features. An option to house part of the collection in Coigach was discussed. Interpretation via apps/QR codes will be used. Other projects currently being worked on is linked interpretive road-side panels between areas within the Geopark- the existing 'rock route' running up the south-north spinal road and a proposed series of 'pebble routes' leading visitors west off the rock route along minor roads, e.g. to Coigach. The pebble routes will encourage visitors to visit smaller villages, and branch off the main roads. The Geopark aim to act as the umbrella organisation, with local initiatives able to develop under their branding. GF would like to initiate regular contact between CCDC and Geopark (along with the other development companies within the Geopark area). Their next meeting will be in March.

IFM thanked GF for his attendance and input and acknowledged the benefits that could arise from CCDC working with NWHG. GF then left the meeting.

**2. Minutes:** The minutes of the last meeting were approved, subject to two amendments. Proposed by SH, seconded by MF.

### **3. Matters Arising:**

Smokehouse - PM to create budget to end of financial year – **Action ongoing.**

Community Energy – LDOs to look at how other areas finance their Wind Turbine Officers – it was agreed to apply for 1FTE for the wind and hydro projects. Application is to be lodged with SSE - **Action ongoing**

Community Energy – SH to speak to SEPA regarding planning issues. **Actioned**

Finance – MF to look at bank statements and confirm funds to be transferred to Smokehouse account – **Action ongoing.**

Finance – BW to look at read only access to Co-op accounts for LDOs. **Action ongoing.**

Land and Housing - IFM to write to Lindsay Simpson (HIE) re whether they could support looking into the potential uses of the Schoolhouse including as a youth hostel. IFM had a positive response from HIE and a draft brief has been submitted.

Land and Housing – LDOs and directors to draw up report into any developments re housing at Acheninver – **Action: AAC to contact Mark Foxwell. SH to contact Crofting Commission**

Land and Housing – LDOs and directors to update re position of land donation below Island View – correspondence in hand. **Action ongoing**

Land and housing – PM to discuss with LDOs whether there is resource to be involved in Community Housing Seminar planned for Ullapool. **Action ongoing**

Administration – Recommendations for advertising of AGM have been incorporated into AGM 2014 procedure document.

Administration – external mailbox at village hall has been actioned.

Administration – MF has set up new email addresses for LDOs and BMH.

Administration – Lesley Muir has updated web-site and facebook page at the request of CCDC.

**4. Finance:** HIE claim is almost ready to go in. Cashflow is fine for next month's wages. LM to end cover on 4<sup>th</sup> January, JC to resume on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. Possibility of sharing an accounts system eg Quickbooks with Coigach Community Trust is being investigated by IS and BW. **Action: IS/BW**

**5. Community Energy:** Hydro - SH has approached SEPA re their objection to the hydro project. Their objection was based on insufficient information in the GWDTE (Ground Water Dependent Terrestrial Eco-system). The survey dealing with this has been supplied and SEPA have withdrawn their objection.

Hydro - A grid connection quote was received on 13<sup>th</sup> December, for £136,000, with a date for connection given for July 2016. Unfortunately, this is out with the two years from pre-accreditation. BMH were to pay the grid connection deposit in early January.

Hydro - Scottish Water was to object also, but SH met with them on 13<sup>th</sup> December to discuss how the SW asset could be protected and a resolution was agreed, involving a temporary supply.

There was a discussion about the decision making and accountability process between subsidiary companies and CCDC. **Action: to be discussed further at a separate meeting.**

Wind – At a meeting with Dorothy Stott she expressed the view that the shortfalls in the hydro project have been addressed. The wind application is to be considered in February. A CCDC response re the wind project was approved.

**6. Land and Housing:** There is a deadline of 24<sup>th</sup> January on the Consultation on the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill. It was felt that having had experience of the CRtB process we should respond. **Action: AAB, AAC and PS to compile a response.**

**7. Piers and Harbours:** The Wallace Stone/Steve Westbrook report and public meeting was referred to. BW to liaise with the Pier Users Group, and AAB with Coigach Community Council, to fix a date for a meeting with the CCC, CCDC and any other relevant parties to meet to discuss and agree the way forward. **Action BW and AAB**

(AAB left the meeting at this point, having a prior commitment)

**8. Smokehouse:** IFM, IS, Richard Williams and PM met. PM to produce a business plan to look at the opportunities. An architect is going to be asked to view the building and give advice on any immediate work necessary. It was agreed that PM would look at CALL projects to see if there are any possibilities to link in. **Action PM**

(JC and IS left the meeting at this point, having prior commitments)

**9. CALL Project:** PM declared an interest as he is one of the 12 partners. There may be projects relevant to us in the CALL portfolio. JC has been nominated to be on the selection panel for a new CALL manager. CALL are looking for a nominated person from each partner – PM suggested JC, with AAC as a deputy. **Action: IFM to confirm CCDC nomination.**

**10. LDO Update:** Piers and harbours – Consultation meeting held. Land and Housing – CRtB application has been reworked and informally submitted for comment. Brief submitted to HIE re best location of youth hostel. Owner of land below Island View who has offered land donation has been

contacted. Coastal Communities Fund discussed with Chair. Community Broadband Scotland – broadband speed being collected.

**11. Correspondence:** Letter received re Homecoming 2014 – agreed to circulate to Achiltibuie Tourist Association & Achiltibuie Highland Music School. **Action: AAC to circulate**

**12. AOCB:** SH reported a potential link for a spiny market, perhaps for Smokehouse or DM&A Macleod.

Co-option of Directors – IFM to follow up potential new director. LM was co-opted as director, proposed by IFM and seconded by TR.

We now have the domain name of [www.coigachcommunity.org.uk](http://www.coigachcommunity.org.uk)