

## COIGACH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

MINUTES: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016, 7pm, Coigach Community Hall

Present: Iain Scott (IS, Chair), Steve Husband (SH), Ann Macleod (AAB), Phil Shaughnessy (PS), Linda Macleod (LM, covering LDO), Julia Campbell (JC, LDO), Anne Campbell (AC, LDO)

Apologies: Iain Muir (IFM), Alison Sinclair (AS, Smokehouse Development Officer).

Declarations of interest: With the two renewable energy projects advancing towards the investment and construction phases formal interests have been declared by director SH and employees AS and JC who are shareholders of Achiltibuie Common Grazings.

1. The minutes of the last meeting were approved. Proposed by AAB, seconded by SH.

2. Matters Arising: dealt with under agenda items

### 3. FINANCE

The outstanding repayment of the hall loan was discussed and it was confirmed the position remains the same – that preference will be given to repaying this loan when funds become available. The first interest payment has been made.

The accounts pack for February has been circulated, and the March pack will be circulated shortly. **Action: IS**

The sale of Ben Mor Hydro went through on 31<sup>st</sup> March. BMH also repaid the loan element from the SSE grant of £6858.23. There is a bill from A9 accountants for £400 on the advice on the sale.

### 4. CORPORATE STRUCTURE

IFM spoke with Stuart MacPherson at HIE. Approval has been given to proceed with corporate structure. CCDC Trading Ltd. has been set up with IFM, IS and SH as Directors. **Action: IFM, IS**

### 5. BROADBAND

A working group in Ullapool has been formed, and they are due to hold a meeting soon. The meeting of the NW Sutherland Group is to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> June. We will attend both. We have also registered for the BT Community Fibre Partnership Scheme. AC to contact Calum Stiven at CBS re proceeding with Stage 2. **Action: AC**

### 6. LAND AND HOUSING

Achiltibuie Schoolhouse. A successful garden clearout was held on 19<sup>th</sup> March and CCDC would like to thank all those who came along. A decision from SSE SDF re our application is expected in early May **Action: JC**

Smokehouse. AS will be meeting with the Heritage Lottery Fund and will report for the next meeting. **Action: AS**  
Drumrunie. AAB has been contacted by Mrs Paul Dacre, who was very positive about our ideas and has offered to meet with us at Drumrunie when they are next in the area to talk through the suggestions. LDOs are to contact Highland Council to revisit the parking regulations. **Action: AAB, LDOs**

Acheninver Youth Hostel. Interviews were held with a strong field of applicants, and SWT have appointed Iain Simpson and Ruth Bradley to take on the lease. CCDC wish them well in their new venture.

### 7. PATH PROJECTS

Fiona Saywell from CALL, along with the Polbain and Dornie Common Grazings Amenities Group, has staked out the coastal path at Polbain and obtained GPS points, with a view to applying to the Improving Public Access part of SRDP for match funding. LM and AC are meeting with Rich Williams (CALL) on the 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss progress. **Action: AC**

### 8. PIERS AND HARBOURS

Date to be set for a meeting with Lindsay Simpson (HIE), Tony Usher (HC) and the Pier Users Group to agree on next steps. CCDC to approach Scottish Sea Farms to ask if they would consider taking a lead role in the Pier Users Group.

**Action: PS, LDOs**

### 9. RENEWABLES

Ben Mor Hydro

BMH was transferred to Locogen on 31<sup>st</sup> March, and CCDC wish them all the best in their enterprise. Community Interest has been maintained with 12.5% of BMH profits being paid to CCDC Trading Ltd. It is expected that the whole sum will be gift-aided to CCDC. Section 19a went through unopposed.

Coigach Wind Power Ltd

The Scottish Land Court will be held 9-11<sup>th</sup> May in Ullapool. CWP and all objectors are invited although none are obliged to attend. Five of the 8 objectors have withdrawn their objections. The 3 remaining objectors are not

shareholders in the Achiltibuie Common Grazings. The 3 objectors were asked to submit their valid reasons for objection to the Scottish Land Court by last Friday. We await a decision on whether there will be a Land Court Hearing. SH updated the meeting on a number of operational issues to do with the project, including a positive visit from a representative of a crane company. PS has identified a suitable crawler crane. SH to contact Stuart Reid at Locogen re crane. **Action: SH**

10. AOCB

- a) SH suggested that members of the community be invited to be CCDC Directors. **Action: All**
- b) AAB attended the Wester Ross Biosphere meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> April. The northern end of the biosphere will be represented by committee members from Ullapool. Other biosphere areas have demonstrated that it has had a positive economic impact on them.
- c) CCDC would like to congratulate SALT and Hamlet Mountaineering, two local businesses which have opened in the area, and wish them every success.

11. Date of next meeting: 7<sup>th</sup> June, 7pm at the hall.