**MEETING OF SGOIL AN IOCHDAIR AGUS A’CHOIMHEARSNACHD**

**At 19:30 on 14th December in The Old Schoolhouse, Bualadubh with zoom link**

1. Welcome
   1. Present: Peter Bird, Ronnie MacPhee, Kate Dawson, Morag Ann MacAulay Steele, Neil Johnstone
   2. Apologies: Robert Currie
2. Minutes of meeting AGM 2022: approved
3. Intimation of AOCB: Nil
4. Accounts and fund balances
   1. Football pitch at Iochdair Hall - £8,270.60 (fund originally raised in 2015)
   2. School playing fields - £10,412.25 (funds originally raised pre-2012)
   3. General maintenance - £2,485.81 (funds originally received in 2018)
   4. General unrestricted funds - £1,191.49
5. New items:
   1. The corner footpath needs resurfacing, as it is overgrown and has been damaged when waterboard pipes were installed. We agreed to contact the waterboard first, before asking for quotes from MacInnes Bros and MacAulay Askernish, plus a third quote if initial quotes are very different.
   2. Bench at Hebridean Jewellery: They have removed the broken picnic bench from the plinth and fenced the area. Kate has discussed this with Fiona, they are open to getting bicycle racks near the shop.
6. Matters arising & updates
   1. New Trustees, and vice chair: We have three vacancies on the board of trustees. We agreed that we would need to increase publicity so that people know what we do, and to generate enthusiasm. This would include increasing our social media activity, promoting our website, more content in Am Paipear. We could also approach other groups in the area to see if they can nominate members (school parent council, Talla an Iochdair, football teams, community council)
   2. Playpark at Iochdar School: We have just over £10,000 for maintenance of facilities at Iochdar School The trustees agreed to transfer £10,000 to the fund for upgrading the school playpark, less the sum already committed for paying for work already done. Any funds over £10,000 will be retained for general maintenance. SKD will confirm with Joan (head teacher) and ask for accounts team to get in touch to arrange transfer of funds.
   3. Other play areas at Iochdar School – whose are they? We need to clarify responsibility for the swing, shelter and round-about. They need a new play surface and maintenance.
   4. HHP playparks: The responsibility for maintenance and ownership of the land is between HHP and the council. SKD will contact Paul Finnegan, head of technical services, to explain why we want to know.
   5. Social Media: SKD will hand these on to Morag Ann. Ronnie will ask Stephanie for help.
   6. Website: (upgrade cost = £300 plus £55 monthly hosting fee) – not just now.
   7. Fundraising and activities:
      1. We have applied to the co-op fund to pay for more cycle racks.
      2. We are applying to CalMac for more cycle racks
      3. Ronnie suggested we have another quiz night after raising our profile.
      4. KD ongoing knitting sales also raising funds.
   8. Tree planting: We have an opportunity to work with the community council. KD is meeting with Ann from the community council.
   9. Benches: We agreed in principle that we would purchase recycled plastic benches, as these last longer, require much less maintenance and are competitively priced.
   10. Cycle racks: We will prioritise benches along the community council access path. We agreed we would install 4 racks at the hall first, and then two at Hebridean Jewellery and two at Griminish Surgery. Lionacleit School already has bicycle racks.
   11. Sculpture and outdoor art: Emily Durie who does Forest School is willing to come along to one of our meetings to talk about how to resource active routes around Iochdar. We are waiting to hear from Sorcha Monk about her work with the dandelion project, and combining art, nature, environment and activity.
   12. Nature trail - see above
   13. Pitch subgroup and maintenance: Nothing is happening. Morag Ann will contact Archie again. We also agreed that we would ask the public and the team if there is any interest in having a local pitch. We also agreed that we would ask the lead for the Junior team if they are interested in using the pitch. Neil agreed he would find out who was leading the junior team and ask them. They currently use the 3G pitch at Lionacleit but they can only use it on Tuesday evenings.
   14. Storas Uibhist: We agreed we would contact the Storas Uibhist office about their funding and grant arrangements. They have also run some community engagement events, and may have some good advices and resources. If we ran an open event, we should probably do this alongside other groups so that we can develop resources collaboratively. This would include Talla, Football, Schools, Community Council, Co-chomann. Kate will contact them.
   15. UCVO: We will continue to be members. They are very helpful with identifying sources of funding, also keeping linked in with other groups.
7. Date of next meeting: Sometime in March.