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

**At 19:30 on 20th March 2023 in The Old Schoolhouse, Bualadubh**

1. **Welcome** 
   1. Present: Peter Bird, Ronnie MacPhee, Kate Dawson, Robert Currie, Harry Luney, Stephanie MacPhee
   2. Apologies: Morag Ann MacAulay Steele, Neil Johnstone
   3. Minutes: Kate Dawson
2. **Minutes of last meeting:** Dec 2022: approved.
3. **Intimation of AOCB:** Nil
4. **Accounts and fund balances (approx.)**
   1. Football pitch at Iochdair Hall - £8,270.60 (fund originally raised in 2015) – awaiting bills
   2. School playing fields - £412.25 (funds originally raised pre-2012) (£10,000 to Sgoil an Iochdair for playpark maintenance)
   3. General maintenance - £1,785.81 (funds originally received in 2018)
   4. General unrestricted funds - £1,191.49
   5. The annual accounts were approved.
   6. We agreed to propose that CSMCo should be our accountants for the next financial year at the AGM.
5. **Shed proposal**: Harry presented the idea of an indoor pitch in Loch Carnan.

Storas Uibhist are planning on replacing the shed in Loch Carnan, sited at the turning to Orosay Inn – (grid ref 57.3741, -7.3150) (What Three Words puff/stockpile/vibrating). A small group from Iochdar Saints have been in discussion with Storas Uibhist about the potential use of the shed space for a small indoor 4G football pitch. They have taken advice from Back Football and Recreation Club who have a community-run 3G indoor arena. <http://www.backfrc.org.uk/> for more information and to look at their online booking system.

The rough plan is for a 4G pitch suitable for 5-a-side indoor football, consisting of a £5,000 4G surface, 10 tons of sand (uncosted), bead base (uncosted) rent (unknown) maintenance (unknown) plus storage, changing spaces for men, women, referee (unknown), liability insurance (unknown) – scope for other sports and uses as well (see Back FRC for ideas). The climbing wall idea was scrapped for now, because of safety implications.

The indoor pitch rental should be low enough to be competitive with the facilities at Sgoil Lionacleit, which are often fully booked, and high enough to cover maintenance, cleaning and rental from Storas.

Storas have not given any information about the size of the replacement shed but they are aware that the Saints are hoping that the shed would be suitable. They have given Storas the dimensions needed. (SFA suggests 36.5m by 27.5m)

In principle, the trustees present thought that the proposal has merit. We agreed that we would forward our old business plans to Harry for their information, and with the note that they are probably over-long, and the demographic data is out of date. **(Action: Kate to forward plans)**

The trustees are looking for some clarity about the relationship between Iochdar Saints and SAIAAC for this project. At the moment, Saints are not members of SAIAAC, and have no representatives on the board of trustees. No trustees have been involved in the formulation of these plans nor are any trustees involved in Saints. **(Action: Kate to forward membership forms)**

No assurance was given at the meeting that funds held for the football pitch would be used for this project. Kate counselled that it would be preferable to apply for funding from trusts and others to stretch our available funding further, rather than digging into reserves.

1. **HHP playparks:**

Kate has had some clarification about the ownership and management of the playparks at Cuidhe na Gamhne and Ford Terrace. The playparks are owned by the council and managed by HHP. Kate has discussed this with Katie Walker at HHP, who is looking for a copy of our constitution, liability insurance and an outline of what we need in any maintenance agreement.

Funding: Some CnES funding is being held in trust by UCVO – bit it is a small amount and there is no clear plan about how this should be disbursed fairly. There is a focus on a few priority playparks in each area, for example, the playpark at Iochdar School.

We discussed a Facebook poll or survey monkey asking for ideas from the community about what they would like to see developed. **(Action: Kate to write a survey)**

**Cuidhe na Gamhne:** Some equipment needs stripping, repainting and repair. Some equipment needs replaced (Swings have been removed, sandpit is empty). Ideas – play equipment that is not the same as everywhere else, play equipment meeting the needs of children with disabilities such as equipment that makes an interesting noise, equipment that can be played on without being able to walk, such as a hammock. Stephanie mentioned the Cunigar Loop, a woodland trail beside the Clyde, that includes climbing boulders and other play equipment that is not available locally.

[**https://forestryandland.gov.scot/visit/cuningar-loop**](https://forestryandland.gov.scot/visit/cuningar-loop)

[**https://www.wicksteed.co.uk/products/inclusive-play-equipment/outdoor-musical-instruments**](https://www.wicksteed.co.uk/products/inclusive-play-equipment/outdoor-musical-instruments)

[**https://www.wicksteed.co.uk/products/inclusive-play-equipment/playground-swings**](https://www.wicksteed.co.uk/products/inclusive-play-equipment/playground-swings)

**Ford Terrace:** Requires stripping, repainting and basic repairs.

1. **Social Media:** Stephanie has the log-in details for Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for SAIAAC. We could use our SoMe accounts for any polls. We should also be using hashtags to make our posts more visible to people interested in the same things. Posts should include photographs of our activities and should be posted regularly at different times of the day/week. If anyone has any good photographs of activities, please share on the page, or send on to Stephanie for posting. Trustees and members to retweet/like/forward/share posts to extend reach. The idea is that the SoMe accounts help with community engagement and to publicise our activities.
2. **AGM:** We have a proposal for a guest speaker for our AGM: Emily Durie, a North Uist resident with an interest in outdoor education, is willing to come and speak to us at our AGM. This would link with a possible project to pursue after the cycle rack program is complete. (see below – we discussed this earlier in the meeting but was on the agenda later on)
3. **Matters arising & updates**
   1. The **corner footpath** needs resurfacing, as it is overgrown and has been damaged when waterboard pipes were installed. The waterboard has asked for photograph of the damage, which has just been forwarded. Peter asked that any upgrade of the path should be 2m wide. MacInnes Bros have suggested that we contact Breedon in Stornoway for a quote (they are due to come down for resurfacing soon). Response awaited from Breedon and MacAulay Askernish.
   2. We still have three **vacancies** on the board of trustees.
   3. **Playpark at Iochdar School**: To check with the school for an update – no reports of any progress.
   4. **Fundraising** and activities:
      1. We have applied to the co-op fund to pay for more cycle racks.
      2. Calmac application unsuccessful
      3. KD planning on ongoing fundraising (knitting)
   5. **Tree planting**: The community council have planted 950 trees around Iochdar School, with more expected. Ideas for where to put them in the catchment area for Iochdar Community Council, please. Some work also needed to feed with blood/fish/bone meal.
   6. **Cycle racks**: We agreed we would install 4 racks at the hall first, and then two at Hebridean Jewellery and two at Griminish Surgery. There is potential to add a rack to each bench on the path. Lionacleit School already has bicycle racks. Total of 10 racks, estimated cost = £3,500 to order, ship and install.
   7. **Sculpture, outdoor art, nature trail and activity trail**: 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. There is potential to have one trail with three separate plans, or more than one trail using the same model.
4. Date of next meeting: AGM – end April or early May.