

SGOIL AN IOCHDAIR AGUS A'CHOIMHEARSNACHD

Minutes of meeting of trustees 8th July 2015

Present

Mairi Bremner (Chairwoman)
 Stephen MacAulay (Trustee)
 Ronnie MacPhee (Trustee)
 Kirsty MacCormick (Storas)
 Claire MacNeil (Storas)
 Kate Dawson (Secretary)

Apologies

Howard Warner (treasurer)
 Iain MacNeil
 Peter Bird (Vice Chair)

Minuted by Kate Dawson

1. **Welcome:** Mairi welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Approval of Minutes (February 2015 and AGM March 2015):** The minutes were approved as drawn (RM, MB)
3. **Matters arising:**
 - a. New Benches: KD to contact Donald MacDonald for update on bench construction. Angus MacDonald c/o the Storas Office may be an alternative supplier
 - b. Development worker: Although this was initially going to be a post part-funded by HIE, the funding is still awaited. Storas have taken on a new development worker (Claire MacNeil) working under Kirsty's tutelage. We noted that HIE seems to have stepped back from funding development: Mairi Bremner proposed writing to HIE for clarification, cc to MSP
 - c. Drainage: public meeting took place, not widely publicised, discussing the impact of the causeways on local drainage. Any work to upgrade the causeway will require Scottish Government support. In the interim, work has taken place on the Loch Skipport and Clachan flood gates. Further work will take place after the water table has settled. Storas is developing and prioritising a full drainage plan.
 - d. Spring community event: Not yet undertaken: initial proposal had been for repainting benches and fencing, but a request has come in from the council to cut back the trees at the road end. We agreed to meet to cut them back. We will respond to the council asking for clarification on the speed-limit and cutting back the verges. *(After the event, the trustees met informally and agreed to contract for the fence-painting)*

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4. Accounts:

- a. Howard not present: Significant sums of money raised towards pitch through fundraising, in the region of £20,000.

5. Football Pitch:

- a. Plans have been submitted for updated planning permission, news awaited. End of grant report expected soon
- b. KD met with Kev Morrison, Christina MacQuarrie, from the Sports Hub development, along with Claire MacNeil and Kirsty MacCormick from Storas. We discussed the possibility of a 4G surface, and whether the project could be included as a satellite of the sports hub development. KevMo undertook to review this. The trustees agreed to aim for a 4G pitch surface. Stephen confirmed that 4G is better than grass, and would allow for year-round outdoor football and training.
- c. We discussed the pro/con of linking with the hub. Support from the hub would link us to current council and SportScotland development. It is essential that we clarify our relationship with the hub before we start fundraising.
- d. We discussed getting any relationship between ourselves and sportscotland/hub/council in writing, letters of support (pending KevMo getting back to us)- KD to chase
- e. Letters of support from local councillors will also be helpful.
- f. Planning permission required, and applied for – applied for 4G plus floodlighting, as it would cost to add these later.
- g. We discussed how we would engage the public in discussions about 4G, holding an event for people who would use the pitch, organising a visit, for example to the Murray Pitch to see what it is like. Stephen MacAulay to arrange a visit or friendly match.
- h. Although original number of local teams was 11, this is now down to 6, so fewer matches. However, improved success of local teams means that more matches being played against off-island sides. With 4G and floodlighting, this will extend the season and allow outdoor training later on in the year. (not restricted by grass growth, pitch wear, low light levels
- i. Survey to assess potential use of pitch – we discussed door to door survey with football team – to design draft questionnaire. Storas have already mapped out which groups might support the project and make use of the pitch. Questions for the community to include 4G pitch, also issues such as raising standards, quality of football, access, participation, training teams to level required for regional competitions. We discussed having an open meeting in Talla an Iochdar in latter part of August, date

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- to be agreed, and before the door-to-door survey.
- j. KevMo also doing an online survey at present, we discussed whether we should do one as well – only secondary to door to door questionnaire (?)
 - k. Junior team: Stephen said that Harry Luney already involved in junior training, KD to discuss further with David MacInnes re affiliation, pitch etcetera.
 - l. Getting quality mark for Iochdar Saints – Stephen MacAulay to follow this up (will include (j) above)
 - m. KD to clarify again whether we could register for VAT
 - n. Scottish Index of Deprivation: Kirsty will look this up for our area.
 - o. Kirsty and Claire will talk further with SportScotland, and identify other potential funders.
 - p. Funding – as we have already raised enough funding to start to unlock funds elsewhere, Storax not currently required for leverage/priming funding, but we can apply to them at a later stage. Kirsty suggested we liaise directly with SportScotland re funding
 - q. To clarify position concerning VAT – previously informed that this would not be possible (2005) but worth revisiting to update letters. SKD to write to HMRC and accountants

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6. Fundraising:

- a. Trail West, 31st July – Stephen will see if Saints could do the door for a proportion of the takings.
- b. Match between Iochdar Saints and Qinetiq with dance to raise funds, organised by Ronnie

7. UCVO membership: We agreed to become members of the newly re-formed UCVO.

8. SportEd: We agreed to sign up for this

9. A.O.C.B. :

- a. Mairi Bremner has nominated this project for £1,000 funding from HHP

10. Next meeting

October, to be announced.