

SGOIL AN IOCHDAIR AGUS A'CHOIMHEARSNACHD

Minutes of meeting of trustees 27th June 2018

Present

Peter Bird (Vice-chair)
Morag Ann Steele (treasurer)
Ronnie MacPhee (Trustee)
Kate Dawson (Secretary)

Apologies

Mairi Bremner (Chairwoman)
Stephen MacAulay (Iochdar Saints)

Minuted by Kate Dawson

1. **Welcome:** Peter welcomed everyone to the meeting

ACTION

2. **Approval of Minutes (20th September):** The minutes were approved as drawn
Approval of Minutes of AGM (21st May): The minutes were approved as drawn

PB, RM MS, PB

3. **New Items:**

Meeting with Head Teacher, School Board, Community council, Iochdar School football club and SAIAAC: We had a short meeting at the school between HT Ann Graham, Thomas Fisher from the School Board, Peter Bird for the Community Council and SAIAAC, Neil MacPherson from the school football club and Kate Dawson, SAIAAC secretary. The meeting covered the history of the existing facilities, including the siting and ownership of the facilities, and the reasons for various choices. We also discussed options and opportunities for development.

- a. The **mini-pitch** was chosen on the advice of the council's landscape architect as it was intended a) to deal with a difficult site with poor drainage and pre-existing hardcore base and b) to cover multiple sports including basket ball and tennis.
- b. The **croileagan play area** sand was also chosen on the advice of the council's landscape architect
- c. **SAIAAC** have a lease for all the land between the parking area at the school, up to the fence at the road, and from the fence beside the path down to the school, across to the fence on the opposite boundary. The out-door classroom, bicycle racks, parking, sports court are the responsibility of the council. The play area is mostly sited in the area leased by SAIAAC.
- d. The current HT would rather that we did not spend our existing funding on **fencing** around the front of the school; the funding is for facilities for recreation.
- e. **The community council** are keen to explore the possibility of accessing more land around the school, including the two buildings (school house and janitor's house) beside the school, and the vacant plot adjacent to 6 Bualadubh. They envisage a large project that takes the rubble from the demolished buildings to form the base for a path from the school to allow for a safe 'daily mile' and a safe route for children walking or cycling to school. The new land would also be available to develop a new entrance to the school. They are working with Peter Coldwell from the council on the path idea and have spoken to tech services about this.

- f. **The parent council** note that football is currently very popular at the school, and there is a desire for a synthetic pitch to play on, rather than the tarmac ball court, which is a bit sore to fall on. SAIAAC updated that they were aiming on developing the pitch at lochdar Hall, initially as a grass pitch and then as a 4G pitch, that would be available for school pupils to train on, and accessible from the school on foot.
- g. **Pupil council** would like to see some development of the large area leased by SAIAAC, and the HT/parent council added that they would like to see something tangible soon. Items that could be acted on soon include: the play area surface being replaced with rubber; repairs to existing play equipment; collaboration to produce a design for an activity trail/loose play area for the large area.
- h. **New Trustees:** We expressed our desire to have closer links to the school, possibly a trustee from the parent council or a member of the teaching staff – to be co-opted once discussed at parent council.

4. Matters arising:

- a. **Citywise** have already been back this year and undertaken some more painting at the school. They will be back next year, and may be available for some more work with the school (this could include more painting, helping set up a loose play area, assisting with a beach clean-up)
- b. **Storas Uibhist:** They no longer have a support worker, and their grants program is in abeyance.
- c. **Telescope:** On the back burner.
- d. **Benches:** The benches at Ardivachair are well used, the others less so. The benches at Rubha Chlachain need repair. KD to contact the carpenter who made the original bench for repair costs
- e. **Footpaths:** See above re community council ‘daily mile’ path. We were unsuccessful in our application for a path in Ardmore, for upgrading the paths in Torlum and Loch Skipport, and the picnic area in Petersport.
- f. **The Old Road:** The old road is now getting swept. The bridge over the train to the Ardmore road is not yet installed. The traffic control measures have also not yet been installed.
- g. **Pitch:** John Linich cut the grass at the pitch for us last year but was unable to roll it because it was so wet. We have costed out some initial projects that would improve the pitch including clearing and installing better drainage at the road end of the pitch, fencing the pitch, installing a septic tank ahead of the changing rooms being built.
- h. **Engaging other groups:** We have not been able to meet with the Uist and Barra Football Association. Morag Ann will chase up her contacts. The aim is to work with their support, as an additional pitch will add capacity for local football development including walking football, women’s football.
- i. **Fencing, repairs at lochdar School:** John Linich has painted the fence around the play area. We have quotes for fencing around the turning circle from MIB and MacAulays Askernish.
- j. **GDPR:** Draft policy on website – no objections.

5. Prioritisation – which projects to pursue:

Ronnie expressed frustration about the slow progress with any work on the pitch after the large sums of money that have been raised for the pitch following the death of his son. We have already broken the pitch project down into sub-projects to make it more feasible, and to ensure that we have a pitch soon.

KD
MS

- a. **Fencing the pitch, ditching and drains at the road end of the pitch:** This has been costed out. *Fencing cost £5952, Ditch/drain cost = £2309.40 inc VAT*
- b. **Improving existing surface:** Mowing and rolling grass pitch – unable to roll, but John Linich was awarded contract, to continue (£70/cut fortnightly in season)
- c. **Septic tank:** Prerequisite for changing rooms, which are in turn a prerequisite for getting any funding from sports bodies for a pitch. *Tank and associated drainage work approx. £25,000*
- d. **Fence at the school:** This is a slatted fence to improve the appearance of the entrance to the school. *Fence and painting £6000*
- e. **Telescope:** Back-burner
- f. **Paths:** Includes new paths and maintenance of existing paths.
- g. **Playparks maintenance:** Includes repainting the equipment, fixing any broken parts, comes within our maintenance budget. *Cost estimate £128 for paint plus carriage, painting costs.*
<https://www.onlineplaygrounds.co.uk/steel-gloss-paint-for-play-equipment-p4.html>
- h. **Playpark new equipment:** <https://wicksteed.co.uk/> examples. More available at online playgrounds including trim trails, adventure trails.
- i. **Playpark new surface** Not costed at present. Examples include <https://www.softsurfaces.co.uk/blog/playground-surfacing/safe-play-area-surface/>

After discussion we agreed that we would apply to awards for all for funding to match what we already have, aiming to get the fencing of the pitch and drains done as a priority. The maintenance work at the school would be second. The Storax fund is currently not operational, so we will start with applying to awards for all.

We also noted that none of the trustees declared an interest in any of the contracts to be awarded (not directors of MacAulay Askernish etc)

6. Accounts:

- a. **Membership:** We agreed to renew our subscription of the Uist and Barra Sports Council.
- b. **Accountants for next financial year:** We agreed that we would continue to use CSMco

7. Next meeting:

The next meeting will be at the end of August, date to be agreed.

KD