

SGOIL AN IOCHDAIR AGUS A'CHOIMHEARSNACHD

Minutes of meeting 20th January 2009 at 7:30pm at the Old School House

Present

Mairi Bremner (Chairwoman)
 Norma MacIntyre (Treasurer)
 Ronnie MacPhee (Trustee)
 Kate Dawson (Secretary)
 Stephen MacAulay (Trustee)
 Angus Campbell (Trustee)
 Marie Campbell (CnES)

Apologies

Howard Warner (Trustee)
 David Blaney (Councillor)

Minuted by Kate Dawson

- 1. Welcome:** Mairi welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked Kate for the use of her house in the event of the hall not being available.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of meeting of September 2008: No amendments were noted, the minutes were proposed by MB, seconded by SM and approved

3. Approval of Minutes:

- a) Current balances:** We have a current balance of £26,447.98. Balance after liabilities is approx £1,763.
- b) Awards for all:** Grant closed.
- c) Debits:** We will be due to pay the council the balance of the fees and maintenance over the next year. This will come to £14311 approx. In addition, remedial work to drains and surface projected to be £5767 plus VAT (£6776.25) Additional costs cover change in specification of play area surface to reduce mud and water in the school
- d) Accounts:** These have been submitted to the accountants, who will prepare them for February 2009, costing £1,500 max.
- e) Interest:** The interest rate on our charity account is very poor. We do not expect to be paying out significant sums until next financial year. Norma will investigate higher interest accounts.

4. Football Pitch:

- a) Site plans:** Mr John MacIver has handed plans to Stephen with proposals for the site, including the plans we would need for planning permission, and preparing the lease. The plans provided do not take into account the area already feued to SUBAS, and so are not suitable.

Kate has written back to Mr MacIver with details of the SUBAS feu plan. Kate and Stephen will review the plans to ensure that they are within the required boundary, and suitable for purpose.

ACTION
NM
KD, SM

Mr John MacIver and Mr Malcolm MacIver have submitted a bill for work done so far: This will not be settled at present, as we await suitable plans.

- b) Lease:** South Uist Estates (Storas Uibhist) have confirmed that although the land around the hall was correctly resumed, it was never transferred into community ownership. The land court has no record of a transfer of title, so the land around the hall remains the property of Storas Uibhist.

Storas Uibhist have indicated that they have a simple standard lease. They have confirmed in writing that they are happy to lease us the area required for a nominal rent for 25 years.

Kate has contacted the Crofters' commission to ensure that we lease the land off the rightful owners, reply awaited

Kate will arrange the lease as soon as a suitable site plan is available.

KD

- c) Project Brief:** The brief has been reviewed by an adviser from HIE, and updated accordingly. HIE also identified potential contractors, and the brief was sent to all on the list. Due to a misunderstanding, a brief was sent to Malcolm MacIver in the mistaken impression that he and John MacIver were in the same company.

The value of the contract was raised to £7,000 following feedback from HIE's adviser, and from those submitting bids.

- d) Consultant's contract (Draft):** The adviser at HIE also provided the secretary with a sample contract. This was circulated prior to the meeting. The contract stipulates that any work not stipulated within the brief should be cleared with the trustees. The draft will be circulated further, and finalised with the appointed consultants.

KD

- e) Appointing consultants:** The brief was sent out to the six contractors suggested by HIE. Mr John MacIver also received a brief. One replied stating that he would not be submitting a bid due to high workload. Another stated that he might be interested in tendering for the architectural component of the brief if working. Philip McLean replied after the deadline stating that he would only be interested in the architectural component. He normally works with John MacIver on projects.

Sgoil an Iochdar Agus a'Choinhearsnachd is a guarantee company without share capital

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We received bids from:

- MacIver Consultancy: A good detailed bid, within budget, good previous experience of similar projects, and good recommendations from other projects
- MacIver Associates: A very short bid, without much detail in the way of costs, no supporting information. John has been very helpful so far, has many useful contacts and good previous track record. Has previously indicated that he would be CDM, with MacIver consultancy as engineers and Philip McLean as Architect.
- Garradh Mhor Limited: Good detailed bid, within budget, most previous experience with roads. Little detail on who else would provide architectural and CDM services.
- Tony Robson: Good detailed bid within budget, CV mostly for highways, harbours. Little detail on who else would be involved.

We agreed that our team of consultants would be Malcolm MacIver (engineer), John MacIver (CDM), and their chosen architect (probably Philip McLean). Kate will need to let all parties know what our decision is, and negotiate a price for the contract with MacIver Consultancy and MacIver Associates, as they have submitted bids of different values.

- f) **Applying for planning permission:** All forms are completed ready for submission, awaiting final plans.
- g) **Funding:** An application has been submitted to RIAS for funding. We have also registered with SDRP. Other funding cannot be applied for without a lease or planning permission. An application for Awards for All has been prepared, awaiting these documents. Other funding to be identified.

5. Woodland Maintenance:

- a) Damaged fencing: we still have materials from our project last year.
- b) Benches require painting, and some additional tree thinning needs to be undertaken.

To address both issues, we agreed that we would organise a volunteer day when the weather was better and the benches were dry. This would probably be the end of May, or the start of June.

6. Play area:

- a) Drainage: remedial work has been undertaken
- b) New surface: this work is of a higher specification than that

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which was originally contracted for, and is a request from the school to reduce the amount of mud coming into the school

7. SEPA funding

We have received details of a new fund from SEPA. This is a new fund to help communities manage fly tipping. The money needs to be applied for by the end of this month and spent by the end of March. Although there has been fly tipping in the area, we do not have enough time to assess the scale of the problem, devise an appropriate costed out solution and long-term strategy, apply for the funding and spend it.

Kate will write to SEPA explaining the difficulties of using this fund in the given time scale.

KD

8. Community Energy Scotland

This is a successor to the Highlands and Islands Community Energy Company (HICEC). It is a company limited by guarantee, set up to advance community development in Scotland, and to advance environmental protection. Not only do its objectives fit well with ours, we stand to benefit from the support and advice they will be able to provide us. This will be important when we are considering our alternative energy plans for the football pitch.

We agreed to join as a community member.

KD NM

9. AOCB

Local Advisory Group: This is a new group being formed in South Uist. Mairi Bremner is our representative of this group. Mairi and Kate attended the first meeting. Minutes will be available in due course. Mairi will represent Iochdar/Sgoil an Iochdair agus a'choimhearsnachd at the group, and feed back to us the work of the group.

The group is being set up to co-ordinate community development priorities in South Uist. The formation of this group has been precipitated by a change in the way that local authority development funds have been allocated. A fixed sum of £100,000 has been allocated for the next four years for the ward of South Uist and Barra (CnES Community Development Fund). Barra already has a local advisory group, comprising their local councillor, the two community councils, and a community co-ordinator.

The South Uist group will be composed of the four local councillors, representatives from Bornish, Eriskay and Lochboisdale Community Councils and a representative from Sgoil an Iochdair agus a' Choimhearsnachd (to represent Iochdair area in absence of Community Council).

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One of the key tasks of the advisory group will be to draw up a Local Outcome Agreement, This will be based on consultation with local agencies, voluntary groups, and other bodies, and will be part of the Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership. The work of the group will be supported by the Community Co-ordinator for the area, Mairi Campbell.

The Local Outcome Agreement will set targets for local development, allowing projects to be assessed and progressed in a co-ordinated way, and ensuring fair access of local projects to the available funding. The agreement will help decide how funding should be allocated across the region.

At the preliminary meeting, we agreed that Barra and South Uist should each have access to £35,000 from the Community Development Fund over the four years, to enable Barra to continue with its development plan without waiting for the South Uist group to form and draft its own plan. The balance (£30,000) will be allocated once South Uist has developed a plan, and a mechanism has been agreed to allocate the money between the two Local Advisory Groups.

10. Next meeting

The next meeting will be the AGM, on 17th March 2009 (provisional)