

SGOIL AN IOCHDAIR AGUS A'CHOIMHEARSNACHD

Minutes of meeting Tuesday 8th May 2007

Present

Mairi Bremner (Trustee)
 Norma MacIntyre (Trustee)
 Howard Warner (Trustee)
 Ronnie MacPhee (Trustee)
 Kate Dawson (secretary)
 Barbara MacAulay
 Mary Harman
 Margaret Ann Humberstone
 Fiona Ballantyne
 Marie Campbell

Apologies

Mary MacInnes
 Rhodri Evans
 Isabel MacDonald
 Peter Carlin

1. Welcome: Mrs Bremner opened the meeting and thanked everyone for his or her attendance. We noted the recent enjoyable family ceilidh to celebrate the award presented to Kate Dawson. Mairi proposed thanks to Ronnie and Howard for arranging the whole evening, from cleaning to biscuits. Thanks also go to all the artists that gave of their time. We agreed to buy a present to thank Billy MacPhee for being the host for the evening. (NM/KD)

2. Minutes September 2006:
 The minutes were proposed (MB) Seconded (HW) and approved.
 Minutes AGM 2007:
 The minutes were proposed (MB) Seconded (HW) and approved.

3. Treasurer's report:
 - a) Current balances: We have a balance of £119463.28. We have one uncleared cheque for £29482.32, a bill for £49676.27 to pay, and income of £2730.40 to clear. Other income includes £300 for forestry/treeplanting maintenance and £170 giftaid.
 - b) New Bank Account: We have successfully transferred our assets into a Community Banking current account.
 - c) Internet banking: The proposal is that we apply for Internet banking, so that we can view current balances in order to manage our assets and track incoming grant monies more effectively. We do not want to undertake any transactions on line. The meeting agreed that this would be in the best interests of the company, would not breach any of the obligations of the company, and that the current office bearers would all have access. Proposed (MB) seconded (HW) and agreed. The secretary will complete the necessary paperwork.

4. New trustees:
 The meeting agreed to co-opt the chairwoman of Croileagan an Iochdair, currently Mrs Fiona Ballantyne, until such time as she steps down from this post. Proposed (MB) Seconded (RM)

ACTION
KD

5. Election of Chairperson, Vice-chairperson and Treasurer

The current office bearers are:

Mairi Bremner Trustee, Chairwoman
Howard Warner Trustee, Vice-chairman
Norma MacIntyre Trustee, Treasurer

After discussion, we agreed that the current office bearers should continue in post for the coming year, while the school project is ongoing. Proposed (MB) and seconded (HW)

Kate Dawson is the honorary secretary. This post does not carry voting rights. The trustees can appoint a secretary as required by the organisation from time to time.

6. Matters arising (Sep 2006):

- a) Griminish Footpath: This is now opened, details on the website
- b) Bicycle racks: These are now installed. They have not been seen to be used as yet. We agreed not to apply for more funds for cycle racks for the present. However, the council have a fund for installing cycle racks, and have sought our advice about this. Our project ran about £500 over budget.
- c) Playground project: Agenda item
- d) Local Walks: The page on the website is under construction. We discussed the possibility of developing walks that might link into any proposals for a long-distance Hebrides trail. KD will liase with Rhodri Evans.
- e) Subscriptions: No new information available.
- f) Fundraising: Donations from the family ceilidh raised over £300. We agreed that we could run a similar event on another occasion.

KD/RE

7. Matters arising (Jan 2007):

- a) Damage to property: A letter went out to all residents in the area. The wall has been repaired and no further damage has been noted.
- b) Council walk leader project: A draft bit of publicity has been prepared, but not put out until we have heard back from the walk leaders. Steve Duffield has set up a private walk/natural history business; we agreed to link this to our site.
- c) Junior football club: Damie and Marion are still running this, although it is at risk through lack of volunteers. They asked to be kept in touch with our activities. They will decide in the summer whether they can continue.
- d) Running track: We note that the running track at Liniclate school has been awarded funding. The new facility should be available to pupils at Lochdar School.
- e) Award: See above; the award was presented at a family ceilidh, which was very enjoyable. The hall committee wants

Sgoil an Lochdar Agus a'Choirhearsnachd is a guarantee company without share capital
Registered Office: The Old Schoolhouse, Lochdar, South Uist
Recognised as a Scottish Charity

Company number: SC285959 Charity number: SC032387

<p>to charge a commercial rate for the hall. The meeting agreed that this was a community/charitable event. The hall had required a lot of cleaning beforehand. We agreed that we would pay the hall £15, published rate for charitable/local groups.</p>	
<p>8. New Playground opening ceremony:</p> <p>a) The playground project is nearing completion. Since the last meeting, the terrible weather has ceased, the trees have been planted, tarmac laid, the ball court completed, and the Croileagan play area completed. There are a few outstanding items to be completed. The council have run past the completion date and extension.</p> <p>b) The opening ceremony looks like it will be on the 8th June, depending on the availability of celebrities/similar. We agreed to plan for about 150 children attending. MAH will liase with Jack Jackson, who will provide drinking bottles and balloons. The school closes at 3pm, so the event will probably be in the afternoon from 1 to 3. The Croileagan opening hours could be flexible to accommodate this.</p> <p>c) KD will liase with school re program and publicity</p> <p>d) Other suggestions: Bouncy castle, 'active schools' activities, Lincilate pipe band</p>	<p>MAH</p> <p>KD/MM</p>
<p>9. Other items:</p> <p>a) Fencing and woodland maintenance: We have been granted £300 for woodland maintenance. The first tree planting area needs thinned, and fencing needs repaired or upgraded round the front of the school and all tree planting areas. We agreed to measure the areas needing fenced, to approach Carnan stores (KD) for costs on fencing supplies, and then to apply for further grant money to upgrade all the fencing in one go (KD). MH will measure the areas to be fenced. It will cost £1.20/m for the MacPhee brothers to undertake the work.</p> <p>b) Keeping user groups involved: We agreed that we should have a stall at the cattle show this summer, possibly offering face painting, a hand-out fun quiz. An annual fun-day at the school play area (from next year) would be good. An annual family ceilidh would be fun too. Sending out minutes, contacting related groups, and maintaining the website are all also relevant.</p> <p>c) Finding new projects: To keep us focussed on continual improvement, we need to keep fresh ideas coming in. Marie Campbell introduced the idea of the community survey, which is coming up soon. Each area is tasked with coming up with questions for the community. KD will send draft questions to Marie on this subject. Other areas ripe for future projects include development of the plot with the footpath and developing links with the Hall Committee.</p>	<p>MH/KD</p> <p>To be decided</p> <p>KD/MC</p>

- d) Football pitch: this is due for a re-appraisal for funding. KD will keep an eye out for information coming from the council about this.
- e) Getting younger people involved: Helen Stoddard is working for the council funded to do youth work. She could help developing a suitable strategy for this, including running questionnaires through pupil councils or schools, or working with pupil councils during school lunchtimes etc. Kate will contact her concerning this.
- f) Uist and Barra Sports Trust: This is an organisation that has been set up chiefly to purchase ex-military land around Balivanich in order to develop it for community use. This would include purchasing the golf club land, grazing land for the stables, and also land for a football pitch in Balivanich. It has no wider remit at present.
- g) Interpretative signage: Future project.

KD
KD

10. Next meeting:
 The next meeting of the trustees will be notified to the trustees and members of the association. The meeting closed at 9:30pm.