

# SGOIL AN IOCHDAIR AGUS A'CHOIMHEARSNACHD

Minutes of meeting Thursday 29th November 2007

Present

Apologies

Mairi Bremner (Trustee)  
 Norma MacIntyre (Trustee)  
 Kate Dawson (secretary)  
 Mary Harman

Ronnie MacPhee (Trustee)  
 Margaret Ann Humberstone  
 Barbara MacAulay  
 Marie Campbell

Minuted by Kate Dawson

1. Welcome: Mairi welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanking them for coming out on such a wet dark night.

2. Approval of Minutes:

- a) Minutes of meeting of May 2007. No amendments were noted, the minutes were approved by the trustees.
- b) All items from the notes of the meeting in October 2007 will be covered at this meeting.

ACTION

3. Treasurer's report:

- a) Current balances: We have a current balance of £35,105.08, with only one uncleared cheque for £60, which has been unpresented for more than six months. This represents the fee for web-hosing, which has already been paid for on our behalf.
- b) Credits: We have a grant of £9,000 from Awards for All for tree maintenance and windbreak fencing. We have also received £11,680.07 to cover the costs of safety measures in the school play area. A claim has gone in to WIE for fencing work around the school.
- 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 £19,447.34. We can claim back this 9% of money once it has been paid, as long as it is processed in this financial year. We have also paid a bill for wind-break netting.
- d) Internet banking: We have successfully set up the internet banking facility, allowing us to track our bank account online, but not to manage any transactions online. E-tags have been provided.
- e) Accounts: Norma has not received any notification from the accountants about our accounts. She will chase this up.

NM

4. Matters arising (Oct 2007):

- a) Bicycle racks: The council sited our remaining cycle racks at the statue and at West Gerinish road end. One problem with racks has been finding sites that are obvious to cyclists. Most venues want the racks tucked out of the way, where they don't get seen or used. We are not planning on developing this project further at present.
- b) Local Walks: Chris Ryan (Paths for Health co-ordinator)

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<p>and Rhodri Evans (Access Officer) have met and are looking to train up more walk leaders and start a program of local walks. Rhod is also consulting on walk networks and the possibility of a 'Butt to Barra' path. No new footpaths are being upgraded at present. KD has also started posting the am Paipear series by Martin Margulies on the website. We could promote these walks further by publicising the information on the ferries, by linking in to the tourist board websites, and by linking in to other walk websites. We also discussed the impact of walk development on the landscape.</p> <p>c) Junior Football Club: Not currently active.</p> <p>d) Fencing and woodland maintenance: We have received a grant of £9,000 for woodland maintenance. The bulk of the proposal was for windbreak fencing for areas of tree planting. KD has also started thinning the plantation at Rubha Chlachain. The turn-out for the first day was small, and the equipment broke, so the exercise may take some time!</p> <p>e) Community Survey: A couple of questions went into the survey about walking and the football pitch at lochdar. The response rate was small, and did not allow people to comment on other football pitches or other types of developments in their areas. Results awaited.</p> <p>f) Involving younger people: Helen Stoddart had an event at Lionacleit School shortly after the start of the session, asking younger people about community involvement. The key message was that the facilities are not well publicised, and appear to be closed to them. They do not feel encouraged or welcome to use the new facilities. KD to discuss this with the head teacher and the janitor. After this, KD to look at increasing publicity for the facilities and increasing their use. A senior youth club would be popular, and help in this respect.</p> <p>g) Nancy Ovens Play Award: We have been awarded runners up trophy in the category 'Best Community Award for Play' (rural winner) in the Nancy Ovens Trust Awards for Play 2007. We agreed that the award should be on public display. After discussion we decided that the library would be the best place. KD will approach the library staff.</p> <p>h) Trustees: At the May meeting we co-opted the standing chair of the Croileagan as a trustee. Josephine MacDonald now holds this post.</p>	<p>KD</p> <p>KD</p> <p>KD</p>
<p>5. Lochdar Hall Football Pitch: Emma MacSween, (CnES) Donald MacInnes (Hall), Donald MacAulay (lochdar Saints) and Kate Dawson met at lochdar hall in September, to discuss how it might be possible to upgrade the pitch at lochdar Hall. Emma is putting together a proposal to the council for a development budget, and is looking to see what projects might be expected to come forwards in the next five years.</p>	

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At the meeting, Donald (Hall) said that the hall committee would be prepared to agree a long lease with SAIAAC and let us manage the project, with maintenance being a service level agreement.

On the basis that this project is one of our original proposals, KD has prepared a draft business plan, with supporting documentation. This includes the lease for the grounds at lochdar school as a model lease for the pitch.

In addition, Emma has provided draft plans for a changing block. This does not include space for storage of match/training/maintenance equipment. The ideal site would be to the rear of lochdar Hall, where there is access to mains water, electricity and drains. The project would also need to address the capacity of the old septic tank, probably by replacing it. The project at present seems to be around £400,000.

At present there is no storage. We could approach UBs for a portakabin for storage as a temporary measure. KD to discuss this further with the hall and football teams concerned to see if this a current need. Trustees could also visit a similar project in Carloway to see what has been achieved there, KD to contact Alec MacDonald for further details.

There are other pitch proposal plans being put forward at the same time. This might be a risk (only one pitch gets funded) or a strength (we can share maintenance equipment and arrangements, and rotate pitches if one is being rested)

6. New Play Area

- a) The play area has been officially opened. There are a few outstanding issues, including 2 year maintenance & grass cutting.
- b) The fence by the Croileagan can be painted by the school or the Croileagan. We do not have funding set aside for this, but agree that this can be done by either group should they wish.
- c) Balance of funding: we have pretty much stuck to our budget, and have spent all of the grant money, apart from some small sums that are still to be claimed back from WIE. All claims for WIE should be processed before February 2008. This will cause us some difficulty if not all of our bills have been presented within that time scale. KD to remind Robert Stubbington of this limitation.
- d) After five years, the trees at the school should have grown a bit, and may need thinning. Once this has happened, the

KD

<p>plan is to establish a footpath/activity trail through the trees. Agreed by all.</p>	KD
<p>e) Drainage. The area by the roundabout and swings is completely saturated most of the time with water running across the paths. Water is draining off the tree planting area, and from the ball courts and parking surrounds onto the grass at this point, and the drain is unable to cope. KD to raise this with Robert Stubbington.</p>	KD
<p>7. AOCB:</p> <p>a) Grass maintenance contract. KD has been strimming the grass alongside the path up to the old road. This is arduous and time consuming. It probably needs to be done once a month over the summer. If it is not done, long grass overhands the path, making it hard to keep clean and tidy, and making it a very wet experience in the rain. This would cost £20/month over the summer. Our current income from low level fundraising and interest easily covers this amount. Agreed.</p> <p>b) The Croileagan play leader and committee are looking at starting a wee garden. They are liaising with the school about the nature of the project, the site and the funding. We agreed that we would help with funding applications. Possible funders would include the co-op, awards for all, and SNH. Someone else who could help would be Anne MacLellan, particularly if the project has positive impacts on biodiversity.</p> <p>c) Companies Act: Changes to the law in 2006 means that we have to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Include the company's registered details on all correspondence, including emails and website</li> <li>ii. Show a duty to promote success</li> <li>iii. Minimum age of trustees now set at 16 years of age</li> <li>iv. Proxies and nominations become mandatory (excluded in our articles, which must be amended)</li> <li>v. Company secretaries are no longer required, and the role can be taken on by a trustee.</li> <li>vi. We now only have 9 months, rather than 10, to submit our accounts after our financial year end.</li> </ol> <p>We will have to adopt these changes at our next AGM</p>	KD
<p>8. Next meeting: The next meeting of the trustees will be notified to the trustees and members of the association. The meeting closed at 9:00pm.</p>	