



## **Management Group Meeting Minutes**

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm, Estate Office, Applecross House**

**Present:** Archie MacLellan (AM), Chair (Applecross Trust), Mike Summers (Applecross Crofters), Derek MacLennan (Bealach group), Alistair McCowan (AMcC) (Historical Society), Alasdair Macleod (AMac)(Community Council), Alison Macleod (Community Council), Gill Fairweather (Walks and Traditional crafts group), Tom Kilbride (co-opted member), Jackie Liuba (co-opted member), Sinéad Fortune (Environment and Development MSc student), Sam Bridgewater, Elodie Matthews.

**Apologies of absence:** Owen Kilbride (Archaeological Society), Gordon Cameron (Heritage Manager), Mary Gibson (adviser), Lorna Lumsden (Applecross Trust).

The minutes of the MG meeting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> April were approved by all present and will be made available via the website.

### **Updates**

Provided on separate document.

### **Minutes**

#### **Management of grassland, Smiddy Wood**

AM raised the issue of managing the grassland area associated with this woodland and suggested erecting an electric fence with heifers introduced for grazing. The roundels would have to be trimmed separately. MS agreed to do the fence and SB agreed that Isabelle Kerjose would be available to do the trimming when required.

#### **Milton – Deer grid**

SB informed the group that the deer fence in Milton was near completion, with the last element being the connection to the deer grid. AM explained that there was a three-week delay in ordering the grid but also the Council needed to approve it first. The Council has given an agreement to help creating the layby before the grid was laid. The timescale given for starting of these works was the end of June, beginning of July and it has been agreed with Kevin Ronaldson that he would come back to finish the fence in Milton once the grid was in place.

MS raised the question of the deer now stuck inside the fence. AM replied that the deer would be dealt with once the whole fence was finished and SB agreed to talk to David Abraham about the issue.

#### **Guided Walks leaflet**

SB explained to the group that it had been decided to replace photos of places with wildlife. The maps had been updated and MS said he had been working with GC and Valerie Hodgkinson on the place names. SB stated that the walks will now be numbered with short descriptors included. JL asked for a picture of the Walled Garden to be included. It was agreed that this was a good idea and SB agreed to locate a suitable picture.

### **Càrnach Woodland & Hebridean barn**

AML reported very good comments on the Càrnach walk, although a signage issue was raised for the end of the walk. SB said that signage was being prepared but it would be about six weeks before it was ready. TK raised the question of removing the rusting pieces of machinery from Càrnach area. SB agreed to have this removed.

MS asked for same thing around the broch and barns. SB made a suggestion to use of the available rubble from the broch excavation to fill the silage pits but the suggestion was rejected in favour of a floating floor. The option of burying the broch rubble once all suitable stone has been used was preferred. AM questioned the future use for the barns. DM proposed to use them as wood dryers. JL discussed the possibility of making them an interpretation hub. If interpretation was to be placed in the southern barn, a roof would be needed, but if it was to be in the northern one, there floor issue with its health and safety risk. However both these issues should be resolved once the barns are restored.

### **Gateway Woodland**

SB informed the group that the specification for Gateway went out and only two contractors (Scottish Woodlands and UPM Tillhill) were interested. Phil Diduca from Tillhill came to have a look at the site and asked for further information on the long term forest plan. SB is responding to his enquiries. The resolution of some of the questions has been delayed because of the Forestry Commission have not yet approved the long-term forest plan (being undertaken by Scottish Woodlands as a separate discrete non ALPS contract), and there may still be adjustments. Tenders have therefore been delayed until the end of the month. SB confirmed that they will need to be priced according to a template spreadsheet to allow a comparison on items of the specification.

### **ALPS legacy and post project responsibilities of partners**

SB confirmed that a budget for long-term maintenance is part of ALPS. AM confirmed that the Trust accepts its responsibility under the terms of the grant to provide maintenance for seven years after ALPS end (10 years in total). He clarified, however, that only a proportion of these costs were being paid by grants. There was some discussion as to who had the responsibility for certain individual projects. TK enquired if the Trust was considering leasing out certain projects to the relevant societies but AM said some details were still unclear and further discussions with the Trustees were needed. AML suggested that it would be worth continuing Management Group meetings after the end of ALPS for a period.

### **Other matters arising**

At the beginning of the meeting, AM gave an update on the land improvement project and stated that there had been a meeting with crofters from the north and southern townships to initiate discussions on this. GF enquired about bracken control and requested a public meeting to inform people about the methods available. She expressed concern that some elements of the community would not be in favour of aerial spraying with Asulam. SB agreed to circulate as much information as possible and arrange a public meeting to discuss this issue further.