



## **Management Group Meeting Minutes**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm, Estate Office, Applecross**

**Present:** Archie MacLellan (AM), Chair (Applecross Trust), Gill Fairweather (Walks and Traditional crafts group), Derek MacLennan (Bealach Group) Tom Kilbride (co-opted member), Lesley Kilbride, Mike Summers (Applecross Crofters), Alistair McCowan (Historical Society), Jackie Liuba (co-opted member), Jess Whistance (JW), **Apologies of absence:** Owen Kilbride (Archaeological Society), Lorna Lumsden (Applecross Trust), Mary Gibson (adviser), Alasdair Macleod (Community Council),.

**Approval of the minutes of the March meeting.**

### **Updates**

See attached document.

**Medieval chapel:** JW updated all that maximum costs for bringing the chapel to a consolidated ruin would be no more than £12,000. Alistair McCowan stated that we must inform HBPT of our quote and provide two options:

1. that they get the job done for the amount quoted by Martin (or thereabouts), or
2. that they hand over management of the project to ALPS.

All agreed: JW to contact Mia Scott at HBPT to arrange a meeting.

Derek MacLennan and Mike Summers both agreed that although Martin Wildgoose would not undertake the work, there would be local people that could be awarded the contract under his supervision.

**South Coast Deer Fence (including layby and deer grid):** Alistair McCowan and Jackie Liuba stated that they were unhappy with the result of the deer grid. Jackie confirmed that it had been agreed that there would be a large gate for vehicles and a pedestrian gate for walkers etc. Jackie was unhappy with the large gate as she felt it would be left open more often, and was cumbersome. Alistair McCowan agreed that a second gate had been discussed and agreed. Jackie thought that a kissing gate had been agreed. JW confirmed that she had met with Kevin Ronaldson on site with Mike Summers. The advice Kevin had given was that a second gate was not wise, not needed and that the ground was not sturdy enough to direct pedestrians towards that area. JW had checked that this course of action was correct and instructed Kevin to just erect the one gate.

Mike wanted it on record that he disagreed with putting in a second, pedestrian gate for the reasons that Kevin had stated. JW stated that she was concerned that the edge of the verge was not safe for walkers and not sturdy enough to hold a post in place. However, if there was disagreement between the board about the best way to go forward, it should be looked into in further detail. JW agreed

that she would speak to Kevin about the possibility of putting in a second gate and that Jackie and Alistair should have the opportunity to discuss the options with Kevin when he returned.

**Hebridean Barns:**

JW informed the board that work had commenced on the northern barn. Alistair McCowan confirmed that one dwarf wall had been constructed on the north barn, and that they were awaiting timber for the south barn before work could begin.

Lesley Kilbride confirmed that Jane Wilkinson will host a wattle & daub day for the community on 22 June. Monique will also help with finishing the wattle panels and get the community involved at the same time.

**Gateway Woodland:** AM updated the board on recent progress. SRDP funding application requires further information before awarding any grant monies. AM confirmed that a meeting on site between Bill Watson, ALPS and the Trust would be needed to determine a way forward. **(Pier):** AM confirmed that there will be an approximate cost to the Trust of £100,000 but that this would not affect progress. AM also confirmed that the application for the pier grant had been awarded at 37% of total expenditure and that the Trust had now formally accepted this offer.

**Dyking:** All agreed to award the contract for the Bealach and Keppoch dyking works to Darren Jones and Geoff Walker.

**Hazel Woods & Roundhouse:** Lesley Kilbride confirmed that all winter coppicing days had been completed and that there would be a few volunteer days in the summer to monitor the woodland, the wild flowers etc. Lesley did raise the issue of the gate of the fenced area being unsuitable (difficult to shut, not sturdy) and would ideally like a kissing gate if funding remains. JW confirmed that there is no funding for a kissing gate at present but that Les had bought some locks for the gate to ensure it is kept closed. JW asked if Mike Summers might fit the locks to the gate which he agreed.

AM asked Lesley if she would produce a document stating work achieved and plans for the future of the fenced area. JW agreed to supply her updates from the coppicing days to Lesley as an aid.

AM suggested that there should be a lease of some sort for Càrnach sectioned area and the roundhouse. Lesley Kilbride and Gill Fairweather confirmed that this had been discussed previously but that they weren't sure that this was necessary. Gill asked if the lease was required because of risk (insurance claims). AM confirmed that this would be one element that would need to be agreed. All agreed that this subject would be revisited at the next meeting.

**Walled Garden greenhouses:** JW confirmed that she had not yet received costs for restoring the greenhouses but as soon as this was received, she would sit down with Jackie and Peter to discuss what aspects to keep as part of the project.

**Land Conditioning:** Mike Summers confirmed that he would like to have some ditching work undertaken at Lonbain as part of the Land Conditioning project. JW stated that she had just gone through the same process with Duncan Fraser and could sit down with Mike to do the same. JW confirmed that 1: 10,000 scale OS maps would be required.

**Policies Woodland:** JW and AM confirmed that work for tree surgery and for planting within the policies would be advertised. Jackie Liuba asked if there was the opportunity to plant some beech trees along the Beechwood path. JW confirmed that this was something that could definitely fit within the Policies Woodland project. Lesley Kilbride mentioned that quite a few ash trees (including one of the largest ash trees in Scotland(?)) had been lost due to the bad weather. She stated that it would be good to factor in replacing these trees. Again, JW agreed that this would fit within the project. Jackie stated that they had been growing lots of ash trees in the Walled Garden and that perhaps it was an option to use these saplings. AM confirmed that this is a good option.

### **Other matter arising**

AM confirmed that ALPS is recruiting an additional staff member for the remainder of the project. This would be to assist with the finances, putting in of claims and auditing towards the end of the project. AM confirmed that recruitment advertising had taken place and one person had applied for the role. He confirmed that an interview is set for Monday 22 April and that it would be good to have at least one board member at the meeting. Jackie Liuba and Mike Summers agreed to attend.

### **Trust visit:**

AM confirmed that the Trust is visiting Applecross June 12/13. Asked if everyone could perhaps look at what should be planned (formal meeting, informal get together, BBQ, afternoon tea etc).

### **Lorna Lumsden:**

Jackie Liuba raised the point that it had become an issue that Lorna Lumsden had not been present at meetings and that perhaps she should be replaced.

ENDS

The next meeting was set for Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2013.