

Management Group Meeting Minutes

Monday 17th June 2013, 7pm Estate Office Applecross

Present: Archie MacLellan (AM), Chair (Applecross Trust) Alistair McCowan (AMcC) (Historical Society) Derek MacLennan (Bealach Group) Jackie Liuba (co-opted member) Mike Summers (Applecross Crofters) Gill Fairweather (Walks & Traditional Crafts group) Jess Whistance, May MacCuish. **Apologies:** Owen Kilbride (Archaeological Society) Alasdair Macleod

Approval of the minutes of April and May's Meetings AM noted the meeting was originally to be held on the 3rd of June but due to a quorum not being available the meeting was cancelled and re-scheduled for today (17 June).

April & May minutes agreed and signed.

GF queried the roundhouse lease, and was unsure what had been agreed at the last meeting. JL & GF wanted it recorded that they had agreed to look at the proposed lease. They had not agreed to sign the proposed lease.

It was agreed that the lease should be a simple letter of agreement drawn up by AM for the group to consider.

JW presented the ALPS update.

Claims and funding update

LEADER has approved extension of funding until 30th September 2013 together with a change of project for the Bardic school, additional funds for Bealach and Archive and Digitisation. JW stated that Fiona Southern from HLF is visiting 25th June to do an audit, and Sandra Armstrong at ERDF is also due to visit to do an audit.

SCDF: AM stated that ALPS is still waiting for the CCAGS money to be paid. ALPS is acting as the contractors on this project and invoices the townships for the work done. SCRIPD had concerns that ALPS might not be eligible as a contractor but this has now been approved.

Chapel: JW is in discussion with Historic Scotland regarding match funding. 46% funding is already agreed with HLF. If Historic Scotland match fund, there would be nothing for the Trust to pay. JW confirmed that funding would probably be for 2014.

The Lost Path: JW confirmed that the route has been marked out and the work will be completed in the autumn.

SCDF: JW confirmed that the fence is now complete, including the additional section at Toscaig. DM stated that the fence does not go all the way down to the river at Toscaig and he believes that there are still deer getting in. AM spoke to David Abraham who mentioned that there will still be deer inside the fence and these will not be removed until August.

JL stated that the gate at the grid had been discussed at the Community Council meeting with regards to access and that some people were in favour of an additional pedestrian gate. JW

reminded everyone that there must be a period of bedding in of the ground before any additional gate could be considered.

Hebridean Barns: final consolidation work is being completed on the north barn. Jane Wilkinson will arrive on Thursday 20 June for 10 days to make the wattle panels and James Goldthorpe will be working with her to make and fit the moulds. The roof of the south barn is complete. Final works are being carried out on the section between the roof and the walls. The basket making course is being held in the south barn on the 6th July. There will also be a volunteer day making wattle hurdles for the roundhouse. This will take place on Saturday 22 June at the barns with Jane.

Lim Kiln: JW confirmed that this project is now complete. The signage has arrived which MS will erect.

Gateway woodland: AM stated that the Trust has issued Bill Watson (Angus Biofuels) with a letter of comfort to reassure him that work will go ahead. At the Trust meeting on 12 June, it was agreed that Angus Biofuels should be awarded the contract officially, and a contract drawn up. ALPS is still awaiting approval of SRDP funding but the Trust has agreed to bridge the gap should this fall through. There may be savings to be made on mulching as Bill can perhaps use more of the wood than at first thought. More detailed costs and a plan of the work to be done in each area will be prepared once a meeting with Bill has taken place on site.

AM stated that there are agreed costs of £15,000 for the design and planning of the pier, which is now an integral part of the Gateway project. Work on this will start Oct/Nov 2013, all being well.

Dykes: JW confirmed that Geoff Walker is currently working on the dykes over the Bealach; he has another few weeks before finishing. All works will be complete by September/October. AMcC reminded JW of the two sections at the head of the bay that must be included within the dyking project. There is still a good deal of funds remaining in this budget. With a deadline of March 2015, there is a good chance that further works could take place.

Interpretation: JW stated that the Wildlife and Heritage booklets are selling well and are for sale at the Shop, Visitors centre, Walled Garden, Heritage Centre and Croft Wools.

JW stated that she is still working on the Geological and Archaeology booklets but progress is being made. Jack has been commissioned to provide imagery for the archaeology booklet. Thomas Small has been commissioned to provide illustrations for the booklet.

Sand interpretation: JW confirmed that Dan MacRae has been commissioned to create interpretive seating on the Sand path.

Hazelwood and Roundhouse: JW confirmed that she is waiting for the report from Les Bates. This will include information on the age of the hazel trees and monitoring that has been undertaken over the last six months.

There will be a couple of event in the summer still to be confirmed. Ian Gillies had made some seating out of logs for the Trust meeting on 12 June. It has been agreed that this should remain in the fenced area of Càrnach.

JW confirmed that there was a volunteer day on Saturday to put the ring beams on the roof of the roundhouse. This will be checked by Brian Wilson (thatcher). The reed has arrived and is being stored in the south barn. The roundhouse will be thatched in August.

Walled Garden Greenhouse: JW stated that, after the meeting with Peter and Jackie on the 12th of May it was suggested by Duncan McCowan that there would be one full greenhouse and one as storage with a tin roof and clear panels to let light in, and this would bring the cost down. Duncan has provided a quote just over the budget but he has agreed to reduce this. The deadline for quotes was 14th June and no other tenders have been supplied. All agreed that Duncan McCowan should be awarded the contract.

JW confirmed that there had been no interest in the masonry work. She had approached Dan MacRae but it is not something he can do. JW mentioned to DM that perhaps he might be interested in tendering for the job.

Bardic School: JW confirmed that LEADER had approved the extension of the project and additional funding. DM confirmed that there are three bookings so far. DM stated that they were aiming for 18 bookings. The main speakers are Anne Lorne Gillies, Miles Campbell, Roddy Maclean, Meg Bateman and Ruaridh Gorman. There will be a Fèis on the Wednesday in the Hall.

JW stated that funding is provided by Bord na Gaidhlig, Comunn na Gàidhlig, Leader and HLF. There is a minimum of 12 bookings to achieve in order to meet funding requirements.

Land Conditioning: JW confirmed that Sandy was unable to plough for Ali MacLeod in Toscaig as the croft was not clear in time. Sandy was also unable to plough Mairi MacDonald's croft at Ard Dubh as the machinery was too big. JW stated that she was waiting for quotes for ditching and draining at Toscaig.

JW confirmed that MFH Helicopters is set to fly over in mid July to check regrowth of bracken. If there is less than 95% bracken eradication, MFH will re-spray free of charge. AM, MS and JL suggested that any spraying be done on foot to avoid any anger in the community. MS agreed that he would go out with JW to check on regrowth on foot. MS suggested that there are areas behind the crofts that may need spraying. GF stated that the community should be given plenty of warning if there was to be spraying by air again.

Policies woodlands JW placed an advert in the WHFP for a tree surgeon and is awaiting tenders. JW stated that Ian Gillies and Duncan McCowan had asked if they could do some volunteer tree planting on the beech wood path. This has now been incorporated into the project plan.

Gateway woodland: AM confirmed that there can be community wood fuel but it would need discussion and agreement from the Community Company on quantity, timescale, usage etc. AM/JW agreed to contact the community company to discuss. JL & AMcC were concerned that it might affect the cost of the project if a lot of wood was kept back for community use. Everyone agreed that the next step is to sit down with the Community Company to find out exactly what is needed.

Any other Business

Trust Meeting: JL had experienced a good meeting but other people in the community felt it would have been better if it had been held in the evening as more people could have attended. It was thought by everyone that a copy of Richards's speech should be made available to the people in the community who could not attend.

ALPS: JL noted that the minutes were previously displayed on the ALPS notice board. All thought that this would be a good idea to re-instate. No-one knew where the ALPS notice board had gone to

but it was suggested that Alison Macleod might know. JW agreed that she would ask Alison MacLeod.

Communication JL asked what communication there is between the Trust and the Community Company and the Community Council? AM stated that he endeavours to communicate through Judy Fish from the Community Company and has had many informal meetings with her. He stated that this is productive but perhaps more could be done to improve communication.

AM asked the group how communication could be improved. Various options were discussed such as arranging meetings with the Community Council and Community Company; setting up a community surgery where individuals could visit AM privately or having a representative attending the Community Council meetings. More discussion on this required.

Date of next meeting 15July 2013