

Approved Minutes of the Meeting of Coigach Community Development Company Directors, 22.6.10 at 7pm, in the Community Hall.

Present: Directors- Iain Muir, Anne Macleod, Ann Macleod, Steve Husband, Richard Williams, Linda Macleod, Iain Macleod, Nick Clooney and visiting speaker Lindsay Campbell from HIE.

Apologies: Phil Shaughnessy (Fireman duties)

Due to an unexpected power cut we did not have copies of the Minutes of the last meeting nor Agenda. On opening the meeting and welcoming Lindsay, the Chairman suggested that we ask Lindsay to speak to us first, then deal briefly with any information the sub-groups may have.

Lindsay Campbell from HIE came to talk to us about Community Led Growth through Community Account Management.

HIE would work with the CCDC to support us to deliver outcomes leading to sustainable growth in the Community. The funding body is partially Leader and HIE would be the applicant on our behalf and would provide match funding. HIE recognises and wishes to counter the effects of volunteer fatigue in small communities. The funding would 'buy a person'-employ a Community Development Officer to work on projects the Community has prioritized. This person could help with the investigative work, look for other sources of funding and try to bring other partners on board. Lindsay would be the account manager appointed by HIE working with the CCDC and the Community Development Officer. Some Communities had been allocated funding for Dev. Officers under 'Initiative at the Edge', from which we were excluded but now the whole of the West coast has 'fragile community' status.

Have Your Say Day was the first stage as needs were expressed and prioritized. Lindsay said that herself and colleagues at HIE and the Leader partners now consider that Achiltibuie is eligible. The first task of the Dev Officer would be to develop a business plan and come up with ideas of how that could be implemented. The idea is that the DO would help to get projects off the ground and become sustainable. The end target would be self sufficiency. The initial funding would be till Nov 2011, when we could make further applications to extend this. Steve asked if the DO could be a local person. Lindsay

replied that some communities had appointed a local person whereas others had employed someone from out with the community. Lindsay went through some of the terms of employment. HIE have templates for contracts. The CCDC would be the employer. There would be £500 for advertising and the first 3 months salary upfront to the CCDC, thereafter we would have to claim 3 months in arrears. The salary for full time is £24,000 with the 'salary burdens' such as travel and subsistence, equipment and office space up to a total of £32,000. Training costs may be available separately.

We discussed whether or not we would need a .5 or full time DO. We thought with the wind turbine progression we could easily use a full time DO. Alison H had passed on to the Meeting that there were .5 posts for renewable energy Dos in Orkney and thought these were funded by HIE. Lindsay said she would find out more about these.

Our next step, according to Lindsay would be 'Baseline Info Gathering'-a mini survey. This could be done by professionals with input from the CCDC and paid for by HIE. Some Communities such as Jura did their own. HIE have a template to help with this. HIE need to be able to evaluate to see progression and be accountable, and do this after the baseline information has been delivered. We noted that some projects were less tangible than others and more difficult to evaluate, usually the ones labelled 'infrastructure'. Lindsay left at 8.05, having been thanked by the Chairman.

Phil joined the meeting shortly before.

As we had no formal Agenda to lean on Iain asked the Renewable Energy sub-committee to update the meeting on any progress. We had been in touch with Roger McMichael from Atmos who is writing to HC for a scoping opinion. Roger told us he hoped to hear from the Planning Officer shortly. Steve reported that Bill and Jean are doing a survey of wildlife species in the area. SNH require that the persons doing the survey have done one before. We will have to contact SNH for their exact requirements. We need to seek approval from SWT and the Crofters for a wind monitoring mast.

The Affordable Housing subcommittee had, through an intermediary been given a price for the Hydroponicum site. Ann to speak to Ian Heron at the Rural Directorate to see if this constitutes being on the open market.

Ann also promised to give the sub-committee any info about affordable housing held by the Community Council. There had been a survey done by Highland Small Communities Housing Trust which proved a need for affordable housing but no land had been available to progress this.

We noted the piers needed a great deal of attention though the new steps have proved satisfactory. Some inconclusive discussion took place on this topic.

The next meeting was arranged for 20.7.10 at 7pm in the Community Hall.

The meeting concluded at approx 8.40 pm.