

## **Minutes of The Coigach Community Development Company Director's Meeting**

**15<sup>th</sup> November 2010, 7pm.**

Present: Iain Muir (Chairman), Nick Clooney (Vice-Chair), Anne MacLeod, Ian MacLeod, Richard Williams, Phil Shaughnessy, Peter Muir (Local Development Officer).  
Guest Rory Dutton, Development Trusts Association of Scotland.

Apologies: Ann MacLeod, Linda MacLeod (LDO)

1) **Rory Dutton** gave an overview of DTAS. Established 2003, 150 groups as members. Charitable organisation. Full details at: [www.dtascot.org.uk](http://www.dtascot.org.uk)

DTAS has four primary objectives: 1) to promote the potential of development trusts 2) to help to set up trusts 3) support existing development trusts to consolidate and develop 4) to promote initiatives, currently promoting an Asset Transfer Initiative.

Four principles of a development trust 1) open membership & elected management 2) broad perspective on community needs leading to wide range of activities 3) not for personal profit & aiming for financial sustainability 4) work in partnership.

DTAS runs the ***Knowledge and Skills Exchange Fund*** (up to £1000 for study visits to successful projects). DTAS is primarily a networking organisation. Membership entitles to one hour free legal advice. Also VAT advice.

2) **Minutes** of Meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> October were approved, proposed by NC, seconded by RW.

3) **Matters Arising**: The Board agreed to invite Julia Campbell and Ben Walton as co-opted directors - **Action**: Iain to make the invitation. Bank account now set up and initial funding applied for from HIE.

4) **LDO Report** Company insurance arranged, HIE survey arranged. PM attended a HIE meeting in Achnasheen where it emerged that many Wester Ross communities identified a lack of residential and business properties as core constraints. Balintore Seminar on Maximising Community Assets attended. 150 Aspen (propagated from the

last remaining local stock) offered by SWT for a suitable enclosure. **Action:** Linda to make suitable arrangements. **Action:** LDOs and Lesley Muir to agree arrangements for upgrading CCDC website.

5) **Community Energy:**

5a) **Site agreement:** A formal letter was sent to SWT enquiring about land and access for a community energy development. Linda will make a presentation to shareholders in the Achiltibuie and Ben More common grazing on 10<sup>th</sup> December.

5b) **Environmental Impact Assessment: PM studying the available documents.** RW : Is 100k for EIA realistic? **Action:** PM to answer that next month.

5c) **Turbine:** Jon Priddy to PM in Balintore: The data from the 50m mast will determine the choice of turbine.

6) **Land & Housing Subgroup:** PS was advised that access to land offered for housing appears to be across a croft. **Action:** LDOs to investigate site and maybe prepare a map/plan to facilitate progress.

7) **Piers & Harbours** No further news.

8) **Coigach and Assynt Living Landscapes Initiative** Meeting on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November in Lochinver. A *Memorandum of Cooperation* will be signed by the participating landowners (SWT, Assynt Foundation, Culag Community Woodland Trust, Eisd Brachaid Estate and John Muir Trust's Quinag Estate). RW felt the memorandum was not particularly restrictive. [Local stakeholders can sign up at any time too]. IM welcomed the initiative as an enlightened and sustainable approach to land management.

9) **Linda's Points for Discussion** 1) Proposal for Logo welcomed and accepted. 2) Involvement in Community Events: Not a current priority. To be revisited. 3) Local shop may be for sale. No action. 4) Audit of skills OK as part of a bigger project. 5) Drumrunie information point: idea to be investigated further. Linda was thanked for her contribution in absentia.

10) **AOCB**

Access issues revisited. **Action:** Ian Macleod to speak to Ian MacKenzie and Una regarding Achlochan path [£1000 offered by SWT for way marking].

Date of next meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2010. The meeting closed at 21.00.