

Approved Minutes of the Coigach Community Development Company Directors' Meeting

Monday October 18th 2010, 7.00 pm

Present and Apologies: Present- Linda Macleod and Peter Muir(Local Development Officers) Mark Foxwell (SWT) Ian Macleod, Ann Macleod(AAB) Nick Clooney(Vice-Chair) and Richard Williams. Apologies-Steve Husband, Iain Muir.(Chairman)

1.Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the meeting on 20th September 2010 were approved, proposed by Rich seconded by Nick.

2.Matters arising:

- a) Linda and Iain had met Rory Dutton, the new local contact for DTAS, in Inverness. Linda and Peter were to arrange a meeting with him at some point.
- b) AAB to ask the two Junior members (the third one is away at the moment) which one wanted to be Junior rep. Would need to recruit further Junior members who could elect a representative at our first AGM.Action-AAB to discuss with the two if they could use Facebook as an info and recruitment tool.
- c) The LDOs Linda and Peter, had now signed their contracts and had started work on 11th October. Nick offered congratulations on behalf of the Board.
- d) Linda's appointment had resulted in a Director vacancy. Iain dealing with this as per last minutes.
- e) The Bank account application form had gone in and was being processed.AAB commented that she had an invoice from the WH Free Press and we would be unable to pay this until we had a bank account. Action-AAB to speak to the WHFP and explain that payment may be delayed till account and grant had been finalised.

f) We did not have a Treasurer as yet as Sheila now felt unable to commit to the role. Action-Directors to consider anyone else locally who may be suitable and willing. It is likely there may be some training for the post.

g) Unsure if Iain had spoken to Lesley re making up an e-mail group as she had for the Skiff project.

3. The Living Landscape Programme Rich and Nick had met with Amanda Bryan the consultant who was making a project plan and a list of aspirations for the area. Mark explained that the programme aimed to take a more holistic view of the area instead of just looking at blocks of land as 'reserves'. The Assynt Foundation was involved as well as SWT and all the Landowners would be consulted. The aim was to take an innovative approach to increasing biodiversity, including computer modelling. Human activity was to be taken into account and they were looking for added value in socio-economic terms. There was quite a bit of funding in place. Mark was very keen for some projects to be started quite quickly to get people interested.eg. a tree nursery. Obviously the plans were to be very long term. The next meeting was in Lochinver on 17th November. Action: Rich to attend along with Lizzie and hopefully an LDO. Mark added that he would like to get the otter holt path project up and running soon, with way marking from the Hall to the Broch. Action:IanPO to speak to Ian Mackenzie re any access issues.

4.LDO Report: Peter commented on how much information they had to read up on. Peter hoped to take over many of the tasks for the progression of the Wind Project with input from the subgroup. Working alongside Lindsay from HIE they had to bring Community Account Management into any plans. An initial Community audit would need to be carried out so HIE could see a progression. Feedback was to be sought from the Community regarding aspirations, (similar to the Have Your Say Day but hopefully involving more of the Community-to be as inclusive as possible.)HIE had some survey material which would elicit core information and this could be tailored to fit local needs. Linda had prepared a colour coded time-line of targets to be completed by the end of March 2011 and these were to be e-mailed to the Directors for any comment. Action: Nick and the LDOs to go through the Project Plan and prioritise all aspirations within a Community Growth Plan.

5. Report from the Energy Sub-Committee

AAB reported that we had a meeting of sub group along with IM. The key issues identified were the need for a full Environmental Impact Assessment and the funding for this, the need to formalise our agreement with the Crofters and SWT and the need to confirm the size of the turbine. Mark reiterated the above regarding the land. He said we would need to write to SWT. If it is to be decrofted then SWT would deal with this. We should clearly state the wind turbine dimensions, Mark advising us to put down the larger option. He said we should ask SWT how they would prefer the land to be transferred and maybe present some possible options which would maximize community benefit. Action-LDO(Peter)and Wind Subgroup to write a letter to SWT. Action: Linda agreed to give a Presentation to Crofters to be arranged by Alison with Iain Campbell for either 8th or 15th December if at all possible. We thought it would be preferable if SH was able to attend the Presentation to answer any technical queries.

AAB still not managed to speak to Hugh Mackintosh of the Crofters Commission re legal issues as he had been out of office but would be in the next day.

6. Report from Land and Housing Sub-committee

No further news.

7. Report from Piers and Harbours sub-committee

Nothing further heard from Cllr J. Urquhart. IM(PO) was of the opinion that HC had at least done some repairs. Rich pointed out some other areas which needed attention in the near future. Could not continue the discussion as Rich had to go at that point. Meeting now inquorate. Mark also left at this point. Chairman thanked Mark for his attendance.

8. AOCB.

Peter had been researching suitable Computer equipment for the use of the LDOs. There is a budget for this in the funding. There seemed to be some well priced equipment available from a local dealer. Linda was looking into the purchase of a mobile phone and thought a Pay as You Go would be best while they monitored usage. LDOs will get back to us re equipment.

Mark informed us before he left that SWT had been successful in raising 100 plus Aspen trees which were now ready for planting.

Date of next Meeting Monday Nov.15th 2010 at 19.00.The Meeting closed at 21.10 approx.