

Approved Minutes of the Coigach Community Development Company

Director's Meeting 17th January 2011, 7pm.

Present: Iain Muir (Chairman), Nick Clooney (Vice-Chair), Julia Campbell, Ben Walton, Ian MacLeod, Phil Shaughnessy, Ann Macleod (AAB), Steve Husband, Richard Williams. Linda MacLeod, Peter Muir (Local Development Officers).

1) **Introduction and Apologies:** IM welcomed all to the meeting. Linda passed on apologies from Anne Macleod.

2) **Minutes** of Meeting of 22nd December 2010 were approved - proposed by NC seconded by JC.

3) **Matters Arising:**

Peter was able to confirm that the land by the Old Hall which had been previously considered for affordable housing had indeed been decrofted. PM to consider a number of issues in connection with this. PM had also been looking at access to land offered by Allan Graham. Linda was still looking for suggestions for the website.

4) **LDO Report:**

The Local Audit Questionnaire had a return rate of 42%. LDO's felt that having to send the form back to HIE rather than locally may have resulted in fewer responses. The LDOs hoped to have the full statistics back from HIE by the end of the month, when they could be pulled into the Development Plan.

LDOs had attended a Meeting of LDOs in Kyleakin. PM and LM both found this very useful. It had been an opportunity to meet up, share and explore ideas with fellow LDOs from places such as Staffin, Rhum, Knoidart, Morvern and Glendale. Many of these communities have similar wish lists as we have. The other LDOs were particularly interested in the 'Have your Say Day' and how it had acted as an initial sounding board for the Community.

5) **Discussion on Presentation to Achiltibuie Common Grazings Shareholders**

LM had prepared a Presentation for the Meeting with the Shareholders tomorrow night and had sent us a preview for comment. We felt that she had revised the issue and set out the background quite clearly so that the Shareholders would feel well informed. PM stated that we did not need the permission of the Shareholders to erect a temporary met mast. We felt that it would be useful if the LDOs could research some examples of what other communities like ours had done with their income.

6) **Report from Community Energy sub-group**

PM had had a meeting in Dingwall with Jon Priddy and Melanie MacRae of Community Energy Scotland. Jon Priddy was leaving his post for a new position elsewhere in CES. There is no current funding available from CES. CES suggested we could maybe apply for lottery and/or LEADER funding. Our EIA would need to be totally grant funded.

CES had also suggested that the current funding situation may make it necessary to move forward in small steps. Next tasks are planning permission for the met mast, an access agreement with SWT; and funding for the wind data analysis and bird survey.

The directors wondered if there was any discretionary funding available in the ward budget. We thought Robbie Bain would know the answer to this. **ACTION** PM to enquire and PM and SH to liaise re met mast planning. PM is to speak to Tamara Lawton at SNH re the necessary protocol for a bird survey.

We could maybe give Tamara any local info already available, Jean and Bill Wilder had been doing surveys four times a year. **ACTION** RW to speak to the Wilders about this. The bird survey is a very costly item and needed to cover all seasons.

PM had also been speaking to Calum Macdonald from Point on Lewis about legal issues concerning wind turbines on crofting land. Suitable arrangements between operator, landowner and shareholders were also discussed.

7) **Report from Land and Housing Subgroup**

LDOs preparing a letter to local landowners on the future housing in Coigach.

8) **Report from Piers and Harbours Subgroup**

PS reported that there was to be a meeting with Tony Usher shortly. It seemed that Tony Usher thought it may be advantageous for us to take over the ownership and running of Badentarbet Pier as there may be funding available for a community group to repair it, which was not available to Highland Council. HC had no funds for the extensive repairs needed. It was generally agreed that we would need to wait for the outcome of the meeting and seek further advice.

9) **AOCB**

NC reported that the Bank account was nearly empty. PM to assist with the next claim from HIE by preparing the next claim for Iain in his absence.

We discussed a possible time for the next AGM. IM thought it was within 15 months of set-up. We agreed that subscriptions would need to be for a whole year—not part of a year, in the event of anyone joining partway through a year.

Ross-shire Renewable Energy Forum had been wound up leaving £400 in the kitty which Tommy Beavitt had suggested CCDC could use. SH to liaise re this.

IM suggested that we be pro-active in supporting local businesses where appropriate. NC and IM to progress.

It was noted that we still did not have a Treasurer. We would advertise in the first instance on the website and possibly the Ullapool News.

10) **Date of next meeting**

THURSDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2011 7 PM

The meeting closed at 20.50 approx