

**Minutes from Board of Directors' meeting of Coigach Community Development Company,**

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2011, 7pm**

Present: Phil Shaughnessy, Ben Walton, Ann Macleod (AAB), Nick Clooney (Chairman), Richard Williams, Julia Campbell; Linda MacLeod, Peter Muir (Local Development Officers).

1) **Introduction and Apologies:** Apologies were received from Iain Muir, Anne Macleod and Steve Husband.

2) **Minutes** of Meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> May 2011 were approved by Nick Clooney and seconded by Ann Macleod.

3) **Matters Arising:** The Newsletter was well received with comments such as 'Very informative' and 'Great'.

Following an estimate for legal fees from the preferred solicitors a second firm of solicitors was contacted. The latter produced a quote for all likely work to 31.3.12.

The directors will study both costs.

4) **AGM Preparation:** Linda drafted an Agenda and Iain produced a Financial Statement. Iain is currently writing his Chairman's Report.

Three directors (AAB, Nick & Steve) are standing down to meet a requirement of the Articles of Association. They are eligible to stand again and have been re-nominated. The process for nominating directors was advertised locally, but no further nominations were received.

In this connection PM requested the directors consider the position of one director who has missed three consecutive board meetings without permission. This could be deemed to constitute a retiral. **Action: AAB to speak to the director.**

5) **LDO Report:** Steve and PM had visited 'All Energy' in Aberdeen and a hydro energy event in Aberfeldy. A number of consultants on hydro and wind energy were visited –

and 30 minutes spent with turbine manufacturers Enercon. Following 'All Energy' five invitations to tender for the turbine work to planning stage were posted and three bids received, ranging in price from an estimate of £40,000 to a quote for £72,000.

Thereafter a funding application for the energy project was submitted.

Also, 62 members paid up so far, also one associate member and three junior members. Two donations were received.

Linda and Anne have met to work on the application for the video conferencing unit.

E-commence course has 12 places, 8 bookings so far.

**6) Report from the Community Energy sub-group:** Richard reported on the developments of the hydro project co-operation between SWT and CCDC. After a meeting with SWT and Highland Power the CCDC felt confirmed in their view that the project should involve CCDC and SWT only. Two telephone conferences with SWT followed to develop the common understanding - and crucially the 50:50 ownership of a new hydro energy joint venture was agreed upon. One of the calls was used to complete the CARELS Stage 2 application form.

Steve has contacted 11 hydro-energy consultants, and it is hoped to find a suitable project manager amongst the respondents if the funding application is successful.

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**7) Report from Land and Housing Subgroup:** The advertised peat track work in Polbain has had to be withdrawn as Mrs Rex is unhappy about dealing with the CCDC. She would prefer to deal with the Community Council (CCC). Consultations are ongoing. Iain intends to call a meeting of the Polbain crofters to gather their views. **Action: Linda and ABB to try to resolve the impasse and to advise Mrs Rex on the remit of the CCC.**

No response yet received in connection with the Freedom of Information request to the Crofter's Commission. **Action: PM to clarify the status of the FOI request.**

As the Hydroponicum is up for sale our *Right to Buy* has kicked in, and the Scottish Government Community Assets Branch visited to advise on the process. A timeline was produced showing the next steps: valuation, then 21 days to respond/appeal, draft business plan, ballot, fund raising etc. There followed a discussion on the Ballot Question in preparation for a mid July community ballot.

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**8) Report from Piers and Harbours Subgroup:** An Invitation to Tender has gone out to three consultants to look at the options for our local piers and harbours –their repairs and their future. Mid July deadline. **Action: Linda to seek LEADER funding.**

**9) AOCB:** Ben reported that he had been contacted by SWT who were considering a policy change on deer stalking. SWT were looking at more local involvement with more local management and harvesting. SWT may offer a larger unit.

The PAYE for LDOs, currently operated by 3 directors, is hoped to be passed to Ben.

**10) Date of Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm. The meeting closed at 21.50 approx.