

Minutes for DCT Committee Meeting 26 January 2023

Present: Jason Bold, Paul MacAskill, Mali Messent, Anne MacAskill, Kenny Nicolson DO

MATTERS ARISING

1. Apologies

Gilly Alston

2. Confirmation of previous minutes

Previous minutes were confirmed.

3. Treasurer's update

Bank balance was shared. Funds are healthy, consolidated the building society account.

4. New applications

Isle of Skye Pipe Band: £500 application approved for Arizona trip

Chiara MacLean: Educational grant considered. Suggestion to set an individual cap and fixed length of grant. Also a suggestion of an annual budget for DCT funding. The educational grant terms were decided as £1,500 for Year 1; £750 for Year 2; and £750 for Year 3. Individual/short course funding will be discretionary, viewed by committee on merit. The annual budget for educational grants was decided as £12,000.

OTHER BUSINESS

5. Development Officer project updates

Playpark: work ongoing with playpark committee to progress community playpark project and fundraise. Playpark committee will become a subgroup of DCT. Meeting scheduled with The Highland Council to discuss legal arrangement and fundraising options for new playpark.

Youth club: Two options for youth club, either through Highlife Highland or run by DCT. Have discussed this with a former youth worker at the council and have received advice for how best to organise this and secure appropriate training/licencing. If DCT take on the youth club then 100% of the funding could go to the youth worker rather than HLH, which would make the position more attractive.

Proposed Wind Farms: Meeting with Falck Renewables to discuss Ben Aketil repowering and extension prior to meeting. Outcome was disappointing with little commitment to increased community benefit and no commitment to community shared ownership. Upcoming community meeting in Portree to discuss island-wide proposals which DCT will be attending. No update from Muirhall while they are in

discussions with another community group. Local Energy Scotland are supporting us while we investigate feasibility of community shared ownership, particularly in Wind2's Ben Sca development which has already secured planning permission.

Skye Cycle Network: No update recently, PM has been in contact with project lead to find out project development and latest activity.

Gaeltec Building: DCT visited the Gaeltec building owners to discuss a potential community buyout. Owners were willing to discuss this and meet went well, they are in the process of getting the building valued. It was agreed to contact them with an update once DCT had discussed funding options for this with Falck to see whether they would support this. Question on whether the trust would have to pay business rates, KN to investigate.

Minibus: Trying to get a MiDas trainer from Highlife Highland to undertake minibus MiDas training for local groups and organisations who would make use of, or are already making use of, the community minibus. DCT to support and fund this.

Local Place Plan: The trust has received information from the council regarding an upcoming opportunity for eligible community groups to create a Local Place Plan. KN to monitor this and feedback once the plan goes live.

Other business: Dunvegan Community Trust SCIO is fully approved by OSCR and is compliant with Community Right to Buy legislation. Application submitted to become affiliated with Development Trusts Association Scotland. Application being submitted to OSCR to wind up the old trust.

6. Orbost Forest/Cruachan Wood

JB has received and forwarded the revised business plan for Cruachan Wood. There is some financial modelling. Suggestion to communicate this with Orbost residents. Question regarding how many times you can apply to Scottish Land Fund. Could investigate asset transfer possibility after meeting with Orbost residents. AM noted there seemed to be little community interest in the project from the last questionnaire, MM suggests there was a lack of clarity in Orbost regarding the plans. Also a question regarding the car park development costs, HIE have been asked for an update and we should have an update soon.

7. Dunvegan Community Council Updates

Next meeting in February. DCC have secured £5,000 from the Corra Foundation to issue a hardship fund. If DCT issue a hardship fund as originally planned then an approach to SLCAB is needed, agreed to support the DCC scheme instead.

8. Kaly Group

Public event in Waternish on 2 February. PM to represent the trust and feedback as it could be an important development for the area.

9. Website

MM shared latest update on trust website. Should/can trust memberships carry over into new SCIO? New sign ups on the website will be sent to the trust email address. Website should streamline funding applications and make it simpler for working groups to form and communicate. Begin considering logo options and who to draft it, ask members for ideas in addition to local graphic designers. Will not let the logo hold up rollout of new website. MM's draft trust policy statements are approved.

10. SCIO administration

Recruit trustees and associate member(s) with relevant skills. Consider whether specific projects require paid project management. Skills audit is outdated, should there be another? Schedule meeting with Liza Clelland who is interested in joining committee. Review paid admin support if required.

11. AOB

Review meeting frequency. Monthly mini meeting, potentially on Zoom. KN to investigate Terms of Reference document for subgroups if necessary. Last Thursday of the month decided for meetings.