

## **Minutes of Horshader Community Development Board Meeting on 11 June 2018**

Venue: Raebhat House, 7.00pm

**Present:** Flora MacLeod; Jimina MacLeod; Mairi MacLean; Sharon MacLeod; Domhnall MacLeod; Iain MacArthur (by telephone); Alisdair Wiseman; Alan Murray (Development Officer).

### **Reviewing the community meeting on 9 June 2018**

- Everyone agreed that the community meeting had been a great success. Turnout for the event was strong – around 35 people. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. The programme went well. There was a high level of engagement and participation. 91 ideas for future Trust projects were generated, with only a small degree of overlap between the five groups that were generating the ideas. The quiz was a real hit. And afternoon tea went down a treat although, as usual, there was more baking than people to consume it!
- Each of the five groups was asked to highlight the two ideas they felt strongest about. Creating a play park for young people, building a care home in the community, dealing with mobile phone black spots, preserving the local wildlife, community walks and helping the Historical Society and the museum project were picked.
- Ideas for making future events even better: have a curry night (with mince and tatties for those who don't like spicy food); try having the event on an evening so that those people who are busy during the day are not excluded; make sure that the invitations were totally clear as to who is invited to the event.
- Flora suggested that we might replace a Board meeting with an open meeting on, say, a quarterly basis so that anyone in the community might come along, meet with the Directors and ask about anything that is on their mind. The rest of the Board wholeheartedly supported this idea.
- We talked about some of the ideas that were generated as well as some new ones that might be added to the list: building a community garage, extending the range of equipment for hire, creating summer employment so that more people could get their grass cut more often and perhaps recruiting a Ranger for the Trust to help with guided walks and nature conservation.
- We will consolidate the ideas from this meeting with those raised at the last consultation and, when the Board is less involved in dealing with urgent issues, we will build a Trust Development Plan – essentially, a strategy for taking the Trust forward over the next 5-10 years.
- We agree to organise a gift for Ali MacLennan for creating the local knowledge quiz.
- The Trust will make a donation of £100 in lieu of raising funds from the raffle. And the Trust will pay for the hire of the Bouncy Castle for the village clean-up involving the kids at school on 15 June 2018.
- The Trust wishes to show its appreciation to all those who generously provided raffle prizes and baking for the meeting.
- Finally on the community consultation, we agreed to do a special issue of the Newsletter to communicate the ideas generated at the meeting. This might coincide with having a clearer picture of the Trust's financial position in which case the two things might be combined. We will include a request for personal communication preferences in this mailing.

### **Actions from last meeting**

- Flora took the Directors through the actions from the last meeting.

### **Midas training**

- We agreed that it would be sensible to organise first aid training alongside Midas training.

### **Staff advertisements**

- Alan has made an appointment for the admin assistant's post: Jordan Morrison, a Horshader resident.
- Alan has also re-advertised the post for a gardener now that the position has become a permanent one.

### **Equipment write-offs**

- It is just the laptop that was in the previous Chair's possession that will need to be written off.

### **Turbine insurance**

- No immediate progress on the turbine downtime insurance claim – the paperwork looks onerous but we will continue with the claim.

### **Quotes for rectifying the electrics in the café kitchen**

- Kevin Macrae is going to do an inspection of the kitchen on Wednesday 13 July 2018 and will report back on completion.

### **Mindfulness workshop**

- Flora will speak to Lucy this week about running a short taster workshop so that people in the community can judge whether or not it is beneficial with a view to organising something tailored for Horshader.

### **Village clean-up organised by the school**

- The school has organised a village clean-up for this coming Friday – there will be food and fun on completion. The Board agreed to pay for the cost of hiring the bouncy castle. Jimina will ask the kids to write stories about the evening and we will include some of the stories in a future edition of the newsletter.

### **Local voluntary groups**

- It is clear from the community consultation that the Historical Society could do with some assistance. Whilst it is not immediately clear what the Board might do to assist, we agreed to give the matter some thought.
- Alisdair passed on the points raised by one of the Trustees of the Museum Project: the need for a sustainable bank of Trustees in the area so that people could be approached whenever there was a vacancy of a Board; and the desire to organise something that would help to demonstrate the inclusion of young people in the project.

### **Relationship with the Co-op Bank**

- Alan indicated that the relationship with the Co-op Bank appears to be a little strained at the moment. We agreed to see if we can address this.

### **Using the polycrubs**

- It appears that not all the raised beds are being used. We agreed that we should approach allotment holders to see if they wish to use their allocated raised beds and, if not, to offer these to other people in the community, starting with people in the Horshader Trust area. We confirmed that we need to set up proper agreements for allotment holders making expectations on both sides clear – we will come to this before the end of the year so that the new agreements can be in place for the 2019 growing season.

### **Beach cleans in the Horshader area**

- Alisdair briefed the Board on the output from the Beach Clean meeting held in Bragar Old School on 7 June 2018. The beach clean will take place on Saturday 18 August 2018 and will focus on Arnol, Bragar, Brue and Fibhig. A record of what was discussed at the meeting is attached to these minutes.

### **HCDT bank accounts**

- At a previous meeting, the Directors asked for an indication of the balances in the various Trust bank accounts:
  - HCD Bank of Scotland Treasurers Account: used for most day-to-day banking such as paying bills, salaries, purchases, petty cash, shop/café takings, etc. - £50,000.
  - HCD Cooperative Bank Community Fund: used for grant payments, and also to top up the above BOS Treasurers Account when it starts to run low - £390,000.
  - RPG Cooperative Bank Current Account - £227,000.
  - RPG Cooperative Bank Business Directplus Account - £127,000.
- This is a total of £794,000. We agreed to look into what uses these funds might be put to and what the structure of the turbine loan repayments looks like. In addition, the Directors are looking into what funds have already been committed – we know that £100,000 was committed by the previous Board to the Museum Project and the new Board has agreed to honour this commitment.

### **Monthly accounts**

- We confirmed that we should get monthly accounts for April and May 2018 shortly and annual accounts for the 2017 year by the end of the month. We must get an update from CIB Services to confirm that this timetable is still correct.

### **Frequency of Board meetings**

- We agreed that the Board should look to move to fortnightly Board meetings as soon as practical and then monthly Board meetings thereafter – the current frequency of weekly Board meetings is quickly becoming unsustainable.

**Next meeting:** Monday 18 June 2018, 7.00pm.

The Board of the Horshader Community Development Trust