

Minutes of Horshader Community Development Board Meeting on 30 April 2018

Venue: Raebhat House, 7.00pm

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

Apologies: Richard Macdonald; Domhnall MacLeod.

Building a short-term plan for the Trust

- The idea behind building and implementing a short-term plan is to signal that the new Board intends to immediately take the Trust forward in a positive and proactive way. We want to be ambitious but not over-promise.
- The first area we addressed was what the Trust might look like in the future. Ideas generated included: more active local projects; more community involvement; a happy workforce; good relations with the community; monthly Board meetings; positive image of the Trust and the Board; more employees; people queuing up to be Directors; a thriving growing project; farmers markets; young people thoroughly involved in the Trust; regular activities for the people in the community.
- The second area we addressed was why we think the Trust exists. Ideas included: to benefit the whole community in a sustainable way; to encourage relocation to the Horshader area; to provide employment opportunities for people in the community; to create a positive impression of the community before young people leave the island so that they are encouraged to return; to use the funds generated by the turbine for the greater benefit of the community.
- We talked about things we might like to achieve in the first three months – these are not firm commitments yet, just possibilities. Ideas included: creating a happy workforce; sending out a positive message regarding community involvement; establishing plans for (but not implementing) big projects; listing ideas for smaller projects like improving the coastal walks, making a gesture to the community, putting benches above the beaches, proper cover for watering the polycrubs, tidying up the polycrubs, setting up the big room at Raebhat House as a drop-in area and doing a mindfulness workshop, holding a community meeting, revitalising the newsletter, creating a new governing document and organising quiz nights. Ideas for bigger projects included: boardwalks to the beaches, building toilets at the Shawbost beach, creating a local map of the Trust area similar to the one created at Bragar where the older people in the community put names to all the places and features that are not noted on the Ordnance Survey maps, supporting the museum. No decisions were taken about what to take forward and community consultation will certainly help to establish what we do and the order in which things are done.
- We talked about how we would know that the Trust is progressing in the desired direction. Indicators of success included: realistic milestones for projects; more people participating in Trust activities; monthly Board meetings rather than weekly and shorter action lists from those meetings; completion of smaller projects; and a better feeling in the community.
- We will convert these ideas into a proper short-term plan for the Trust in the next few weeks.

Actions from last meeting

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

Director training

- We agreed that the training offered by the people that are doing the HIE sessions at South Galson looked like a good alternative to the offer from Arts & Business Scotland. Alan will see if they can do a session specifically for us at a time that worked for everyone.

Midas training

- We will ask the permanent admin person to do Midas training to ensure that Don has sufficient cover.
- We should find out if there are any retired bus drivers in the village that might be interested in helping with driving cover.
- We will need to find out what background checks are required for people who relieve Don.
- We can also approach parents of children at the school to see if they would be prepared to do Midas training – this would enable them to use the minibus for school trip as well.

The next community meeting

- We agreed to make the next community meeting an afternoon tea occasion on Saturday 9 June 2018 in the Old School.
- We will ask for volunteers to bake and to provide entertainment.
- We will need to work out a programme of the event.

Polycrubs

- We agreed to remove the locks from the polycrubs.
- The area around the Grinnivat Road polycrubs is extremely untidy. It would be great if we could muster a group of volunteers, including some Directors, to tidy the area up as soon as possible.
- The polycrubs working group has met and a growing plan is being prepared.

Bookkeeping services

- The visit from CIB Services on Wednesday of last week went well. The first monthly accounts will be presented towards the end of May for the Board meeting at the end of that month.

Newsletter

- We had a short discussion about the content of the newsletter. There is a strong desire to get contributions from many different sources so that we have something that covers the widest possible interest and also lightens the load on one person pulling everything together. Possible things to include in future newsletters might include: a gardening corner; funny stories from the community; recipes; what's on in Horshader; calls for help; advertising local enterprises; project updates; Director profiles; news from the shop and café; news from the community; and updates from the museum project.

Other business

- We agreed that we would like Jackie to continue providing a discounted rate for her classes to Horshader community people.
- We agreed that we should look to meeting fortnightly rather than weekly as soon as we can manage.

Next meeting: Monday 7 May 2018, Raebhat House, 7.00pm

The Board of the Horshader Community Development Trust