



Management Group Meeting Minutes

Monday 2nd April, 7pm, Estate Office, Applecross House

Present: Mike Summers (MS) (Applecross Crofters), Alistair McCowan (AMcC) (Historical Society), Gill Fairweather (GF) (Walks and Traditional crafts group), Jackie Liuba (JL) (co-opted member), Sam Bridgewater (SB), Alison MacLeod (AiMac)(Community Council), Derek MacLennan (DM) (Bealach group)

Apologies of absence: Archie MacLellan (AM), Chair (Applecross Trust), Owen Kilbride (OK) (Archaeological Society), Alasdair Macleod (AMac)(Community Council, Lorna Lumsden (LL)(Applecross Trust). Mary Gibson (MG)(adviser) Tom Kilbride (TK)(co-opted member), Gordon Cameron (GC)(Heritage Manager) Elodie Matthews (EM).

In the absence of Archie MacLellan it was agreed that Sam Bridgewater would chair the meeting. In the absence of Elodie Matthews it was agreed that SB would write up the minutes. The minutes of the MG meeting of the 5th March 2012 were approved by all present and will be made available via the website.

Updates

Provided on separate document.

Minutes

Clachan Church

SB & AMcC provided further background on progress of the church and clarified that the project was still on target to be completed by early May, with the only major work uncompleted being the rendering of the west gable end. It was confirmed that repairs would be done to this, removing boss areas only, and that this additional work could be done within budget. The pulpit was discussed as there had previously been some concern as to its new position. AMcC confirmed that its new position was in fact its original position and SB confirmed that it was not blocking the new window in the east gable end. JL who had previously expressed concern said she had since visited the church, had seen the pulpit in its new position and liked it. AMcC stated that moving it backwards and forwards (e.g. on wheels) dependent on events was not a practical option. The group were happy for the pulpit to stay in its new position.

DM raised the issue of the proposed sound post and what the final decision was. SB said that there had not yet been any final decision but confirmed that a component of the community were unhappy with the idea. The group discussed the pros and cons of a sound post and SB stated that funders were expecting interpretation to be accessible to all (including those with sight impairments), rather than the majority, and thus incorporating an element of sound was

worthwhile. The group voted on this issue with a 4 to 3 against the sound post outside the burial ground with those voting against believing it to be inappropriate. SB agreed to circulate the vote count to the other members of the MG who couldn't attend. Assuming that the majority of the MG remained in favour of not pursuing the sound post, it was agreed that ALPS should pursue instead the installation of an audio resource within the Heritage Centre. SB highlighted that the Heritage Centre wasn't always open and suggested that ALPS should pursue the development of an App (with audio) for smart phones to ensure that good information was available at all times to those of poor sight etc. The MG members present agreed that this should be pursued. SB reminded the group that there were new doors on the church. AMcC stated that the old ones were rotten and not fit for purpose. JL enquired what would happen to the old doors and AMcC confirmed that they now belonged to the contractor.

Milton Loch

SB reminded the group about the inclusion of fishing stances within the Milton Loch project. He proposed the use of gabion baskets filled with stone with a drystone dyke facade and turf top as a pragmatic solution to providing functional stances that look in keeping with the surrounding environment. The group were generally in favour. SB said he hoped that the Anglers would start doing this during the next month.

Gateway Woodland

SB confirmed that specifications for Gateway Woodland had been sent to the two contractors who had responded to, and passed, a pre-qualification process, and that tenders were expected on the 21st April. The issue of fuelwood was raised and there was discussion on how best to establish a viable fuelwood supply within Applecross. SB confirmed that the establishment of a fuelwood chain was not part of ALPS but that the initiative that could assist with its development through training, with one member of the community already trained to CS30/31 level, and by ensuring that fuelwood provision was written into the Gateway Woodland project. It was agreed to reserve further discussions on Gateway until tenders had been received.

Other matters arising

SB raised the Archaeological Trail and stated that he had been in contact with Bryan Stout (Highland Council TEC) re. the proposed Street to Milton path. He confirmed that the council's stance was that if they were to allow/adopt any such path either 1) the path would have to be a tarmac pavement adjacent to the road which would cost far more than the ALPS funds available 2) the path would have to be of a rougher track type but would have to be significantly set back from the road (no room), or 3) if the path were to be below the road they would likely insist on safety barriers which would cost ca. £100/m. For the path distance the cost of barriers alone would be ca. £23K which is more than the budget available. The group thus reluctantly agreed that this path could not be completed under ALPS. SB reminded the group of the path budget and estimated that at present £36K of the available budget £50K would be spent on existing work. He proposed including additional work of improving the links to the archaeological trail focusing on the track behind Milton

and the track between Lochend and Torgarve. He said this work would cost an addition £7K. This was agreed by those present.

GF and MS raised the issue of habitat improvements including new forestry areas within the SCDF area and enquired about progress on applications to SRDP. SB agreed to contact Archie MacLellan to discuss this. GF and MS said they would like to see proposed woodland areas depicted on maps.

JL asked whether the area on the Beechwood Trail north of the Holy Well could be tidied up. SB said that some work had already been done to clear the majority of dead trees, but that the state of the area e.g. muddy deer wallows were not due to ALPS path works. SB agreed to schedule some further tidying work under ALPS. MS agreed to assist. SB confirmed that there was still some work required to tidy up the Holy Well, including the removal of timber not used for the barrier.

Provision of information on access was discussed briefly. It was agreed that the Events leaflet should provide contract details for those who had special needs. DM pointed out that a Gaelic heading needed to be changed. SB said this would be changed.

JL and GF requested that an additional guided walk be organised based around Carnoch woodland.

The date for next meeting was set for Monday 7th May 2012.