



## **Management Group Meeting Minutes**

**Monday 24th September, 7pm, Estate Office, Applecross**

**Present:** Archie MacLellan (AM), Chair (Applecross Trust), Owen Kilbride (Archaeological Society) Mike Summers (Applecross Crofters), Alistair McCowan (AMcC) (Historical Society), Alasdair Macleod (AMac)(Community Council), Gill Fairweather (Walks and Traditional crafts group), Mary Gibson (adviser), Tom Kilbride (co-opted member), Jackie Liuba (co-opted member), Lesley Kilbride, Sam Bridgewater, Elodie Matthews, Michelle Appleby (Bumblebee Conservation Trust).

**Apologies of absence:** Derek MacLennan (Bealach Group), Lorna Lumsden (Applecross Trust).

The minutes of the MG meeting of the 20<sup>th</sup> August were approved by all present and will be made available via the website and on the community hall.

### **Updates**

Provided on separate document.

### **Minutes**

#### **ALPS Project Manager**

Successful interviews were held on Monday 11th September, resulting in the appointment of Jessica Whistance. She will be starting on Monday 22nd October and SB will be leaving with copies of files on hard drive so will be able to support and answer questions remotely. SB will also be writing procurement for funders for transparency of the recruitment process. Good feedback was provided about recruitment but dissatisfaction was expressed about time taken to give an answer to the unsuccessful applicants.

#### **Gateway**

The project still had unresolved questions after the meeting with contractors. Angus Biofuels wasn't available at the time to do a full presentation but will be coming to Applecross on Tuesday 25th September to discuss their tender. It is hoped that questions raised during the meeting with Chris Perkins will be answered, such as mulching, timescale of works, payments and cash flow and transport. Angus Biofuels would take more time to complete the contract (approximately 260 days) but their method of extraction would result in less impact on traffic. Alison Macleod, Community Company, will be meeting Angus Biofuels to discuss development of a grant application for a pier constructed in a vernacular style. TK expressed a doubt regarding the Tilhill option because of the size of lorries and the subsequent impact they could have on the north coast road. SB reassured the

group about the fact that the meeting with Bill Watson, Angus Biofuels, was open to the management group and stressed the need to confirm figures and tie down details. OK asked if the project would still happen without the ALPS funding but the Trust would not be able to bear the cost of it. GF asked if replanting was included in contract. This was confirmed to be the case. OK wanted to know the Trust's view of the project. AML confirmed that the Trust were keen to see the project delivered and were committed to providing match funding within certain budget constraints.

### **Path works extension**

SB explained that, as a result of an underspend, funds are available for extending the scope of pathworks. ERDF is a co-funder on paths and allows a certain degree of flexibility on what could be done. OK expressed his wish to see the archaeological trail completed. He also pointed out the fact that the Lost Trail's original route wasn't entirely followed and would like to see it open again, for historical accuracy. SB made a suggestion of adding steps at the beginning of the path, for safety and access but OK did not approve, although SB insisted on the in-keeping nature of the steps. The Lochend to Torgarve path was initially included in the archaeological trail budget but there are several possibilities and SB asked the management group to make propositions on the matter. DML suggested the path from Coillegillie to Toscaig, TK the path from the road to Cuaig bay, OK the Milton to the Street path. The Kenmore to the glen path was also considered. SB reminded the group that any decision would require production of new specifications and tenders.

OK requested further works to complete the archaeological trail and it was suggested that Isabelle Kerjose could carry this out. The Board agreed.

MS raised the question of maintenance and its budget. With the 10-year maintenance obligation, ideally each path would have a maintenance programme. AML reminded assured the Board there was a 10 year maintenance obligation on the Trust.

### **Hebridean barns**

SB updated the group on progress. The roof of the north barn is being replaced and the pits having been filled in. OK expressed concern that in filling the pits changes the character of the building and he thought the agreement was to build a wooden structure with a viewing window. He felt the pit remaining open looked too much like a well. SB explained that the decision was made with the agreement of archaeologists for Health and safety reasons and interpretation will be supported by a booklet. AMcC brought up the question of wattles between the pillars and LK answered that she was consulting Jane Wilkinson, willow weaver, on how best to make them and involve locals with their production. Sourcing hazel from Càrnach would be a possibility.

AML asked about progress on the roundhouse and LK explained that reed needed to be ordered for the thatching and would be done between February and April 2013.

### **VT and ALPS**

GF made a suggestion to add Sally Bassett to the meetings involving the Regeneration by Adventure project. It was agreed that Sally should be involved in developing the project but there was no requirement for her to become involved on the Board. SB reminded the group of the background to the project and its various evolutions but insisted on the fact that it still needs to be defined. The training component of it is important as it needs to benefit the community.

### **Other matter arising**

Michelle Appleby, conservation officer from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust presented the Bees for Everyone project. Its aim is to prevent further extinction of bumblebees by creating suitable habitat for them. The BCT provided Information packs to help reintroduce bees and to advise on small tweaks crofters could make to be more bee friendly.

MG asked about the targets in terms of benefit of the SCDF. AML responded that one of the most significant outputs is the creation of woodland in Milton. Surveys from SAC have shown that in the other south coast townships, the deep peat wouldn't allow for significant areas of woodland creation. It is believed that there is sufficient ditching and reseeded proposed in Toscaig to meet the targets for 2012/13. MG wondered if greater potential to develop gardens, thanks to the fence, would count in targets.

The next management group meeting will be held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October.