



Management Group Meeting Minutes

Monday 16th July, 6.30pm, Estate Office, Applecross

Present: Archie MacLellan (AM), Chair (Applecross Trust), Mike Summers (Applecross Crofters), Derek MacLennan (Bealach group), Alistair McCowan (AMcC) (Historical Society), Alasdair Macleod (AMac)(Community Council), Gill Fairweather (Walks and Traditional crafts group), Gordon Cameron (Heritage Manager), Mary Gibson (adviser), Jackie Liuba (co-opted member), Sam Bridgewater, Elodie Matthews.

Apologies of absence: Owen Kilbride (Archaeological Society), Tom Kilbride (co-opted member), Lorna Lumsden (Applecross Trust).

The minutes of the MG meeting of the 11th June were approved by all present and will be made available via the website.

Updates

Provided on separate document.

Minutes

Clachan church

SB reported a problem with the bottom panes of the windows and expressed the concern glass might not be fit for purpose. Samples of the old windows were found during archaeological excavations and tried to be reproduced but SB questioned possible lines of weakness. It was reasserted that the contractor was obliged to deal with the issue. In case a complete replacement was needed, AMC expressed a preference for coloured glass whereas JL would prefer it clear.

AMC brought the question of replacing the chairs. It was generally felt that the current chairs, although not comfortable, were nice and in-keeping with the building. SB also insisted on the fact that it was not originally included in the budget. AMC requested permission to investigate in additional funding. AM agreed.

MS raised the issue of installing a water steriliser. It was agreed to proceed to the installation.

AMC asked about saving electricity and tripping the switch.

Gateway woodland

Sb informed group about his visit to sw and upm First item to discuss is access road. Permanent feature . Forestry road. Either long access road or short track with loading bay. Or track plus path.

Next issue is tonnage of timber. Sw estimated but can't know for sure. Upm estimated as well but degree of uncertainty about tonnage extractable. Huge variation in prices but also in quality of wood extracted. Middle part of compartment is best quality timber. Below is wind blown Third issue is mulching. Cheapest option is leaving as it is, brash mats, like smiddy used to be or dress mulch. Maybe if done areas that are less visible to keep costs down. Am pointed out the fact that not the whole area is to be replanted. Sb advises to consider carefully all these points and choose the cheaper option.

Sb to go back to contractors and check figures and make sure that they are realistic costs Am explained fees were thought to involve more community communication Sw have more knowledge of area and transport and other issues Sb public contracts website for procurement issues and one additional expression of interest. Plus Chris Perkins from highland birch wood comes to Applecross on Wednesday for discussion on fuel wood Rhododendron control may be hijacked by trust Between upm and sw costs are about even. Costs can be reduced.

Aml questions shortfall and trustees commitment. All depends on high rates of grants but aml questions if grant is bigger does that mean more mulching or less contribution for trust gc asked what type of management provided and recommendations for upm.

Sb asked group to give feedback, requested feedback from trustees and agreed to go back to contractors to check figures.

Hebridean barns

Situation of the pits and decision against in filling them. Boards, floating floor, is not ideal solution so sb proposes filling them, leaving a few inches of sides to mark out area Proposition to fill in the biggest pit and leaving smallest one open Gc is in favour of keeping at least one open for study Perspex??

Future purpose of building is interpretation hub Fence around pit is preferred option Ms asked about wattles.

Signage and interpretation

Feedback has not provided as requested at last meeting so project will go ahead Group gave agreement for sb to implement. Am asked who was doing it. Isabelle

Deer grid

Council has offered help with creation of layby. Fill Material would come from applecross Contractors have not given price. Cost is within Fence costs Delay until end of July. Need timescales from council, three quotes with specs Council has specific specs for each element Once it's done deer fence can be finished.

Layby creation plus tarring around grid

Land improvements

Bracken control left with clerks to be decided. Milton is one place where azulocs is to be used. Not near houses or water supply.

Jl raised issue of keppoch and am replied about projects for fields and cattle and roadside Outside of alps anyway, trust project.

Gc asked about organic status of estate but not organic Jl raised the issue of legal responsibility but was reassured regarding the sprayed area not being near Milton loch or togarve water supply Mg asked about hlf targets. Sb reported results from visit Malcolm eight hectares suitable when ten was the target. Lots of areas not suitable Applications for hedge planting can be placed over the winter Reseeding was proposed in culduie and Toscaig five to six acres. Maybe interest in ard dubh. Next year.

Ms expressed interest for woodland creation for Milton. See recording dwarf oaks area

Other matter arising

The date of next meeting was set on Monday 20th August.