



Management Group Meeting Minutes

Monday 11th March, 7pm, Estate Office, Applecross

Present: Archie MacLellan (AM), Chair (Applecross Trust), Owen Kilbride (Archaeological Society), Derek MacLennan (Bealach Group) Tom Kilbride (co-opted member), Mike Summers (Applecross Crofters), Alistair McCowan (AMcC) (Historical Society), Alasdair Macleod (AMac)(Community Council), Jackie Liuba (co-opted member), Jess Whistance, Elodie Matthews, **Apologies of absence:** Lorna Lumsden (Applecross Trust), Gill Fairweather (Walks and Traditional crafts group), Mary Gibson (adviser).

Approval of the minutes of February's meeting. MS raised the issue of minutes. All agreed that the minutes must be an accurate, unbiased account of a meeting. If the minutes are contested at all, this must be done prior to or at the time of approval. Once the minutes are approved, they form a record of what was agreed during the MG meetings and this must be adhered to.

Updates

See attached document.

In relation to the funding update, OK questioned the signing off of the community archaeological training project, when an iron smelting workshop was still to be organised. JW to check on the outputs and the possibility of presenting the workshop to the funders.

Medieval chapel: AM agreed to look over the project brief. OK expressed a wish for Martin Wildgoose to be consulted for a second opinion on the consolidation of the chapel. The management group agreed for JW to seek for a costing from Martin.

Hebridean Barns: JW circulated the following plan prior to the meeting:

1. Flooring & Pits

Clear the floor area and level. Gravel or loose surfacing applied to all areas excepting immediately in front of the doorway where original cobble floor is evident and should remain exposed. Limestone kerbs are raised, clearly framing the pits.

The three remaining silage pits are currently partly filled and protected with a temporary cover. Proposed action is to leave the limestone kerbs in place and exposed, raised from the level floor. Fill the pits with gravel/chippings, leaving a gap of 30cm or so from the top of the limestone kerbs.

2. Dwarf walls & wattle screens

It is thought that dwarf walls were not present in this barn, but that they were present in the nearby barn. It is however evident that makeshift dwarf walls were constructed at a later date to prevent the wattle screens from rotting. It would therefore make sense to build dwarf walls within the barn

to provide a resting place for the wattle screens (which are an original feature) and protect from rotting.

The wattle screens will be constructed mainly of willow with some hazel. Several screens will incorporate windows to let the light filter into the building. These windows will also offer a view over the broch and possibly the roundhouse too. The panels will be fixed to frames against the stone pillars but will be easily removable, should the need arise. There will be a door of solid wood on one of the openings.

3. Interpretation

I would propose that the interpretation panels (for Càrnach, the barns and the roundhouse) are situated in the southern barn, fixed against (but not touching) the pillars. The southern barn will not have wattle screens and so would lend itself perfectly to interpretation and as a venue for community events.

In the absence of comments from the archaeologist Cathy Dagg, the group approved the plan and agreed to the completion of the works.

Gateway Woodland: AM presented latest update and explained the financial aspect of the project. TK asked whether there was still a plan to incorporate an amount of wood for the community. AM to find out what is now included within project costs. MG agreed that it must wood for the community must be included within the current project plan.

The Group questioned the number of years that the pier grant would last. If all Trust wood must be shipped out by the pier, it is important to know how many years before this should be complete. AM to find out how long the grant lasts.

The group reasserted their view on the importance of the pier being built in a vernacular style, with stone facing. All agreed that the project should only go ahead if the pier is to be faced in stone. JW confirmed that the drystone dykes budget will help to cover this expense.

Interpretation: The sale of the booklets has been agreed for £1, on sale or return basis with 10% fee from the sellers (Visitor Centre, Heritage Centre, Shop, Walled Garden). The archaeology booklet still requires illustrations and OK agreed to contacting Valerie Hodgkinson's contact for working on this.

The Victorian Garden project was proposed as an additional scheme within the Interpretation budget. JW proposed that, despite having only limited funds remaining in the Interpretation budget, the Victorian Garden project is still to go ahead. This is due to the low costs of the project fitting within existing budget. All agreed that this project could go ahead.

Bealach Interpretation: JW advised that the incorrect stone on the Bealach interpretation is not taken up as it would almost certainly crack. DM agreed that this would be likely to happen, should the stone be taken up at this stage. JW presented two options for moving forwards. The group agreed that the design of the seat might not be as accurate as possible but it should not prevent the project from being completed. JW to liaise with Dan Macrae for completion.

Land Conditioning: it was suggested that Mairi Macdonald should be contacted for advice on seeding wild flowers within the project. JW to contact her on the matter.

Lost Path: it was agreed that Isabelle Kerjose would perform the remaining tasks for completion of the project.

Other matter arising

AM continued raising the question of the future of ALPS in the context of the Trust and how it should progress post HLF funding. Although nothing was agreed due to this being a discussion topic, it should be noted that the following points were raised:

- The need of the Trust being open to a local Trustee and improving its communication with the community was reasserted by AML.
 - TK felt that the Trustees should issue a clear statement outlining their expectations and their own views on the future of ALPS. Also, a Trust/community meeting should be organised for a mutual recognition of each other's needs and remits.
 - the absence of Lorna Lumsden at the Management meetings was regretted, as she represents the Trust and would be able to voice their concerns. (AM)
 - OK felt that if local trustees were introduced, they should be in equal numbers to the present trustees, and meetings should be more regular.
- AM will report all discussions on this topic to the Trustees.

The next meeting was set for Monday 15th April 2013.