



Management Group Meeting Minutes

Thursday 15th July 2013, 7pm, Estate Office, Applecross

Present: Archie MacLellan (AM), ALPS Chair (Applecross Trust), Derek MacLennan (Bealach Group), Mike Summers (Applecross Crofters), Alasdair Macleod (AML) (Community Council), Alistair McCowan (Historical Society), Jackie Liuba (JL), (co-opted member), Jess Whistance (JW), Elodie Matthews, Mary MacCuish.

Apologies of absence: Gill Fairweather (Walks and Traditional crafts group), Owen Kilbride (Archaeological Society), Tom Kilbride (co-opted member), Lorna Lumsden (Applecross Trust), Mary Gibson (adviser)

Approval of the June MG meeting minutes: (Land Conditioning) AML asked that the following be minuted: AML stated that his croft was cleared in time for Sandy Munro to plough the area.

(Land Conditioning) AML also made the group aware that his application for hedging had been unsuccessful due to the lack of stock on the croft. AM suggested that ALPS could take this forward to apply for additional funding. AML agreed that he would drop all documentation around to JW so that she could apply for funding on AML's behalf.

(Gateway Woodland) JL expressed concerns that her minuted discussions about wood fuel had been misunderstood by a community member. It was agreed that the minutes were a true representation of the discussion held and that no changes to the minutes were necessary. However, it was confirmed that there would be wood fuel made available for the community. JW stated that the discussions that took place at the previous meeting regarding community wood fuel, had been to confirm that it was indeed a part of the Gateway Woodland project. It was also agreed that a meeting with the Community Company should be organised as not enough was understood of the Community Company requirements.

After these two points were clarified, the minutes were approved.

Updates

See attached document.

AM reported signs of warping and discolouration on the Walks panels. EM is to take photographs and report to the sign maker.

AM gave a brief update on the funding situation with the South Coast Deer Fence project. CCAGS is still holding on to the claims as the invoices provided need to be broken down further. Various deer sightings were reported in the Toscaig area, including in the regeneration scheme. David Abraham was made aware of this but chasing the deer out is proving difficult because of the state of the

regeneration fence. AM asked AML if the scheme was still under grant condition. It continues to be under maintenance obligation.

The bracken spraying that took place at the end of Summer 2012 will be checked for success rate, as the contractor is obliged to re-spray in case of a success rate less than 95%. AM also notified the group of additional spraying to take place in August 2013 on the area between Keppoch and Gateway. This is a Trust project, not ALPS. However, the community will be advised and signage will be in place.

JL expressed concerns about the previous spraying having been done too close to a burn in Milltown. JW agreed to check on this and make sure the distance is respected in case of further spraying.

AML and Mairi McDonald have agreed to have their plots ploughed individually for reseeded.

AM asked AML if he could provide any further information on Community Company requirement for wood fuel. AML confirmed that the Community Company has £5,000 for wood fuel. He agreed that a meeting with the Development Officer would be necessary in order to come to an arrangement that suits both parties. JW agreed that she would circulate available dates for meeting within the next few days.

JW gave the group the presentation that was given to the Trust in June. It gave a detailed update on the progress of every ALPS project, as well as a financial overview.

Worship and Burial: AMcC asked if the Chapel project had been taken over from Highland Buildings Preservation Trust. JW explained that they had indeed relinquished the project. JW confirmed that she had been in contact with Historic Scotland about the potential for match funding. Historic Scotland felt that it could potentially match fund the whole project, on the condition that a Conservation Architect was to oversee future works. JW confirmed that she had met with Martin Wildgoose and he had agreed to take on this role.

People and Places: the Hazel Woods project. The question of how best to preserve and nurture the hazel saplings (within the fenced area) was raised. JL suggested the suitability of grazing to keep the grass down. MS confirmed that this would result in the animals also eating the saplings. Strimming around the saplings was also suggested. JW agreed that she would discuss options to allow suitable growth with Les Bates.

Drystone dykes and Historic Buildings: Duncan McCowan was awarded the contract for the green houses. There were three expressions of interest for the masonry but only one tender was received from Derek MacLennan. The contract was awarded to Derek. JL asked if the cold frames could be included in the works. JW agreed to seek an additional price for this.

JW made the group aware of the new role attributions in the ALPS office, with May MacCuish now working as a Financial Officer and Elodie Matthews as Marketing Officer.

The date of next meeting was set for Monday 26th August.