

**Lairg & District Community Initiatives  
Minutes from Board Meeting held on:  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2020 via Zoom**

Present: Robert Johnston (RJ), Kaye Hurrion (KH), Annette Parrott(AP), Chris Powell (CP), Alison Magee (AM), Kirstin Langlois (KL) Project Officer

Apologies: Norman McLeod, Rosie Reid, Leslie Goskirk

<b>Agenda items discussed</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>1. Care and Wellbeing</b></p> <p>Nothing to report from Susan. We have now received the deeds to the hotel site electronically, they say they have posted out a hard copy to us, KH will check the box at the LLC as it is not all that waterproof and forward to Albyn Housing. We are trying to get hold of Sinclair Macintosh to see if it is ok to share the valuation that he did for us on the Hotel site. AM wondered if the land valuation might have increased due to the fact that detailed planning consent has now been granted. She added that she wanted to commend Susan’s handling of the meeting with Albyn – she thought that she handled it very well.</p>	KH
<p><b>2. Magazine</b></p> <p>This continues to be very popular with the older folk in our community. AP and AM feel it is very good for the community. It was agreed we would seek more funding in December to keep it going. It was agreed to make them monthly in the new year, but to add in any extra or special issues we think are relevant. RJ asked Kirstin how many days it takes to put it together - it can take between one and two days depending on how much she needs to do herself on it. Kaye provides a lot of the material.</p>	
<p><b>3. Joint Funding Application with KoSDT</b></p> <p>Everyone was happy and agreed this is the best way forward, also the board members felt the arrangement subcontracting the project officer’s role to KoSDT is working very well and hopefully can continue. An application has been submitted to Foundation Scotland to fund the project officer’s post for five years. If this is successful it will mean that the officer won’t have to spend valuable time each year looking for funding for their post. LDCI will submit an application to the Robertson Trust for the office running costs.</p>	
<p><b>4. Station Path</b></p> <p>Kirstin gave a report, and where she is up to with Sustrans, the principle funders. KL has been working with the KoSDT Contracts team to produce a Project Initiation Document that will feed into the Sustrans Expression of Interest application which has to be submitted by 6<sup>th</sup> November. Unfortunately the previous consulting engineer that LDCI had worked with - Gunn McPhee who had done the initial drawings in 2018 is not in a position to continue working on this project, this means that we need to start from scratch - so we have gathered in three quotes from Civil engineers for design proposals and also received an estimate from a quantity surveyor for a Cost Plan and a Bills of Quantities etc. Sustrans require the path to be adoptable by the council.</p>	KL

<p>She has received many letters of support to go in with our application, from Cllr Linda Munro and from various community groups in Lairg: the Community Council, Primary School Parent Council, Lairg Learning Centre, Cycling UK, HOST, and Visit Lairg and Rogart. A donation of £500 match funding has also been pledged from Helmsdale Station CIC. Kirstin explained that the phase one would be fully funded by Sustrans but phase two we would need to look for 30% match funding. KL will update the board when we hear back from Sustrans.</p>	
<p><b>5. Church Hill Wood</b></p> <p>AM pointed out we have slipped in to calling it Churchill Wood, Kirstin to make sure we correct the name on the project. Kirstin ran through what has been done so far in terms of Signs /Management/Trees.</p> <p><b>Signage</b> – (Replacement of the signs) There were three options/ quotes to choose from ranging from £2580 to £7180 and the board felt the cheapest option of £2580 plus vat was the right one to go with. Acorn Signs who submitted the quote produced the last lot of signs and they have lasted nearly 10 years. KH asked Kirstin to make sure the top sign has the correct info on it when it goes to press as we have been working with Donnie Macdonald/Jock/ and Marlyn Price to rectify the omission of his family from the plaque. It was also suggested that we ask for a warranty.</p> <p>It was agreed the new "<b>You Are Here Sign</b> " would have the accommodation providers taken off as there are so many now and it's not fair to put some on and leave some off, also they may cease operating and we will have out of date info on the board. It was agreed that we would put in the list of points of interest at the side of the map (in an Index). For accommodation providers the map will say please contact Ferrycroft Tourist Info Centre (phone number) and then mention the two online ones: Visit Lairg and Rogart and Host. Kirstin gave us the price of the design work (£300) quoted for by Sylvia Muras who she has previously worked with to create a map, but mentioned should we see if there is a local artist we could ask. The Board felt that they would like to go with Sylvia Muras and this means we can move forward with this application.</p> <p>KL suggested that a larger application could be submitted to Lairg Windfarm Fund as part of a wider strategy for the woodland. The Board felt that this project should be delivered in stages and not be submitted as one big project - with things that would not be done for quite a while, so the signage will be stage one and then we will talk about the next stage that is needed. Volunteers and board members will continue maintain the wood and railings and Carvings.</p> <p>KL informed us that Community Payback may be able to come in the spring to cut the grass and tidy up the area.</p>	<p>KL to ask Jodie/ Beth for updated info.</p> <p>KL</p> <p>KL</p>
<p><b>6. Cemetery and Sir James Matheson Mausoleum</b></p> <p>Kirstin gave us a report on what she has been able to find out about the family and if there are any contacts left. AM provided some info that money had been donated by the Jardine Matheson company over 20 years ago to refurbish it, this</p>	

<p>was possibly undertaken by the Community Council, but she thought that it was on the condition that the company would not continue funding the upkeep in the future.</p> <p>KL has had spoken to the Highland Council and Scottish Heritage and a stone mason. If the Mausoleum is inspected and deemed unsafe – Heras fencing will be placed around it. The board felt that we have gone as far as we can go with this and need to pass it on to a group more suited to saving and restoring mausoleums. Kaye asked Kirstin to write a report that we could pass on to anyone who is interested. Annette will still see if she can find a contact for the family which we could then pass the report to.</p>	<p>KL</p>
<p><b>7. AGM and next meeting</b> Kaye to chat to Robert re this and will contact all board members when date is set.</p>	<p>KH</p>
<p><b>8. A.O.B.</b></p> <p>RJ brought up the need for an Aires here in the village and asked the board if it would be a good idea to get a scoping study done for the possibility of this. He suggested it could be located on the Ferrycroft land we own. The board agreed to getting the scope done but have a few reservations about the area chosen and about the running costs and ramifications. RJ explained the scope should be able to give us a clear idea if and how an Aires could work. RJ asked if it would be a good idea to share this idea with our CC and everyone agreed it was. Robert will liaise with Kirstin on this project.</p>	<p>RJ KL</p>

Close of meeting

