

**Lairg & District Community Initiatives
Minutes from Board Meeting
2PM - Thursday 11th March 2021**

Present: Kaye Hurrion (KH), Robert Johnstone (RJ), Annette Parrott (AP), Alison Magee (AM), Dr Rosie Reid (RR), Catriona Mackenzie CM), Kirstin Langlois (KL) Project Officer

Apologies: Norman McLeod, Chris Powell,

Agenda items	Action
<p>1. Approval of Minutes/ Matters arising not on the Agenda</p> <p>The minutes from the meeting on the 26th Jan 2021, were approved by RJ and seconded by AM after the following <u>matters arising</u> were noted:</p> <p>The Aires Project: AM asked if there was any updated info. She also wondered about the possibility of a site for an Aires at the United Auction Sheep Mart. RJ explained that he was still waiting on Hazel Allen (who had been involved in the Care & Wellbeing project) to get back to us with a proposal, he will ask her again if she wants to submit. If we don't hear soon ask the KoSDT who they used and ask for their guidance. THC wants to set up a licensed system. KH mentioned that at the CC meeting she had been asked if LDCI had heard back from THC regarding the car park by Church Hill Wood to see if there is a section that could be used as an Aires. She has spoken with Phil Tomalin but explained that LDCI does not have the money to maintain the car park.</p> <p>RJ mentioned that we have contacted Scottish Water to ask if the waste water treatment works in Lairg can accept Motorhome waste – waiting to hear back from them. KL to chase up.</p> <p>Website RJ asked about website, KL explained that the problems with the Norton Virus protector has been solved, but she will look into moving to a web host that she is more familiar with. No urgency to this now, but a job to be done as when KL has time.</p>	<p>KL</p> <p>KL</p>
<p>2. Care and Wellbeing</p> <p>KH discussed the meeting that RJ, NM, SC and KH attended with Albyn Housing (with Morag Biers who is still overseeing the project and new contact Colin?). They haven't done the Heads of Terms because they haven't secured funding yet. Albyn met with the Scottish Government and THC on Tuesday 9th March to discuss funding and we are waiting to hear the outcome of that. The Community Council had voiced concerns about the length of time it is taking to progress the project so they have been invited to attend the next meeting with Albyn if they wish to.</p>	

<p>KH asked if there were any questions – AM said that she just wanted to ensure that LDCI keeps an eye on the spec of the housing.</p>	
<p>3. Helping Hands Fund (HHF)</p> <p>KL reported that since we opened the ‘new fund’ in November (with the money that we received from the Response, Recovery, Resilience Fund through Foundation Scotland) we have had 8 applications to the HHF.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Have been awarded • 4 withdrew when they saw the criteria (perhaps due to savings) • 1 rejected <p>We did have a few other applicants and queries – but these were all from outwith Lairg CC.</p> <p>There is £1862.50 remaining in the fund – but we contacted FS to ask if we could use this towards the magazine so we don’t need to repay it.</p> <p>In the meantime we’ve printed out leaflets to advertise the new HHF fund which will be funded by the Robertson Trust – these will be distributed via Royal Mail in the IV27 sector from the 15th March (this will let people know they can apply for white goods too.)</p> <p>KH added that Linda Munro invited us to apply to the Ward discretionary fund to cover the costs of the mail drop. She also explained about the Sutherland Helping Hand Support – a new Sutherland wide fund that has just opened up and overlaps with ours. This fund has £50 k and will only run for 3 months. Because this fund doesn’t request evidence of benefits it could go quite quickly.</p> <p>KL reported that to date LDCI have distributed 22 grants in total through the two HHF funds.</p>	
<p>4. Running Costs</p> <p>KH reported that the application to Lairg Wind Farm for Running costs of £4897 was successful, but we have to look at costing in the office as it was worked out on a reduction of rent of our room given to us by the LLC. RJ suggested that it would be worth talking to the LLC regarding the reduction.</p>	
<p>5. Church Hill Wood</p> <p>KH reported on the Church Hill Wood signage. The Lairg wind farm panel have paused our application as they want more information to allow them to make a decision – and to see the designs of the sign. Our board expressed their support for the design we have gone with, through the NHI subsidised ‘Visitor Management’ signs as they are more uniform for tourists to follow than the previous You Are Here sign. The signs will be the same in every village that signs up to the NHI project, the board also agreed because B&B’s change frequently that we would leave them off the board as the info could be outdated before the boards are put up. They are clearer for bins, loos and shops and food outlets etc.</p> <p>KL to check with Marlyn Price over the final draft of the Church Hill Wood Signs, KH to write a bit for KL to send to the panel to explain the change in the YAH signs.</p>	<p>KL/KH</p>
<p>6. Magazine</p>	

<p>Magazine – call for donations - This has been an amazing success and we have had over £700 in donations, KH has personally written to all donors to thank them for their generous donations. We have been told by Foundation Scotland that the money that was left over in the RRR fund that was for the Helping Hand Fund can be transferred to the magazine, so with this and the donations we have enough for at least a further 12 issues.</p> <p>AM asked about Gift Aid on the donations, KL to look in to how this works.</p>	
<p>7. Ferrycroft Play park</p> <p>KH explained that during the cold spell Ferrycroft flooded so Graham Ross from the Highland Council attended the last Lairg CC meeting. During the meeting LDCI was asked if we can help support the parents who want to set up a group to save the play park as all the equipment has been fenced off. There was discussion at the meeting that LDCI could submit a funding application on behalf of HLH and then gift the playpark equipment to them. Any playpark on Highland Council property needs to have equipment to HC standards.</p> <p>KH and KL have a zoom meeting on Tuesday 16th March with Louise Skinner and some of the parents and with Valerie Houston of KoSDT to find out what they want to do, and how we can help support them. KH to report back.</p> <p>The directors gave their support for the project.</p>	
<p>AOB – there was no other business.</p>	

Close of meeting