

## Lairg & District Community Initiatives

### Minutes from Board Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021

#### Lairg Community Hall

In attendance: Kaye Hurrion (KH), Robert Johnstone (RJ), Annette Parrott (AP), Catrina Cameron (CC), Alison Magee (AM), Angela Platts (Community Support Coordinator, Highland Council), Kirstin Langlois (Project Officer) KL,

Apologies: Dr Rosie Reid (RR), Chris Powell,

Item	Action
<p><b>1. Approve Minutes/ Matters arising that are not on the agenda</b></p> <p>The minutes were proposed by RJ and seconded by AP. Angela Platts was welcomed to the meeting, she introduced herself and explained her role as the Community Support Coordinator for Sutherland - one of 10 in the Highland Council area.</p>	
<p><b>2. Ferrycroft Play Park:</b></p> <p>AM reported that she had heard back from Phil Tomalin who explained that £235K was being allocated to the Highlands from the Scottish Government £60m fund to be dispersed through COSLA. A play strategy is being developed by the HC to develop criteria on which the money will be allocated. The hope is that the funds won't just be based on being in an area of deprivation - but rurality will be taken into consideration. There are 400 playparks in the Highlands. We may find out more after the 10<sup>th</sup> November when the play strategy is being discussed.</p> <p>Angela Platts suggested that Bill Dunlop, Senior Technician for playparks would be able to advise on what equipment to purchase and how to install it. Angela also explained that if LDCI were to fundraise and gift to the HC, the project could benefit from the Council purchasing, installing and insuring the equipment and the costs could be less as there would be no VAT.</p> <p>KH mentioned that we may need to check if funders would be happy with this arrangement. There was a discussion about the type of playpark equipment that is required – e.g. all abilities picnic tables etc.</p>	
<p><b>3. Care &amp; Wellbeing Project</b></p> <p>KH advised that a revised MOU has been sent by Albyn Housing – she requested that the board please read the MOU carefully and get back to her with any concerns so that it can be brought to Susan's attention. The directors were invited to attend the next meeting with Susan if they wished to.</p>	

<p><b>4. Helping Hands Fund (HHF):</b></p> <p>KL reported that three people have received a grant from the 3rd round of funding (from the Robertson Trust) so far.</p> <p>There are two applications that are pending (with CAB who are awaiting the paperwork from the clients) and in the past two days two more applications for assistance have been received – these are in the process of being referred to CAB.</p> <p>There was a discussion about how some elderly people have not been able to access the fund because they have savings over the threshold of £2000 which they are keeping for their funeral. KL wondered whether this could be considered as an exceptional circumstance – but the directors felt that the criteria needs to be adhered to otherwise it could become difficult to manage.</p>	
<p><b>5. Magazine</b></p> <p>145 x hard copies of the magazine are distributed via Costcutters and Spar, (going out with the papers) and also hand delivered by the volunteers. The magazine has increased to 10 pages. KH advised that funding will need to be secured for next year to cover the costs. AP suggested asking local businesses for sponsorship. Perhaps businesses who have sponsored Winterfest in the past could be approached.</p>	KH/KL
<p><b>6. Heath Walk</b></p> <p>The first Health Walk was held on the 21st September, and there were 6 walkers plus Jan Blackwell and KL. The next walk will be held on the 26th October. As the Ferrycroft Centre is closing for the winter, from November onwards a new venue will need to be found to go to for refreshments afterwards, as this social aspect is a key part of the walks. AP suggested asking Kelly Skinner if they might consider opening Ferrycroft for a few hours.</p> <p>KH has secured £900 from the George Earll Foundation (through Foundation Scotland) to facilitate the Health Walks and to purchase equipment such as walking poles, first aid kit, first aid training for the Walk leaders.</p>	KL
<p><b>7. Aires Project</b></p> <p>KL explained that following the activity on Facebook after the planning permission notices had gone up, the online consultation had been reopened to allow people who had not been able to take part previously to do so. The feedback from the community will be taken into consideration along with any responses to the CAT and Planning applications before moving forward with the project. The directors will be advised of the outcome.</p>	KL

<p><b>8. Church Hill Woods Improvements</b></p> <p>KH said that £3500 of funding has been received from the Communities Recovery Fund 2 which had a pot of money specifically for growing projects. KH has met with Light Up Lairg who cleared some of the land to the left of the picnic table.</p> <p>The Lairg Learning Centre would like to hold outdoor sessions to promote local growing so the plan is for LDCI to construct an open-air pagoda type structure to be used as an outdoor classroom within the Church Hill woods that could be used by LDLC and other local groups e.g. the school. RJ has asked for a quote from Lockharts and from Brian Martin, and one has also been received from Stephen Shaw. Additional funding will need to be secured to cover the total cost as £3500 will not be enough for the groundworks and for a substantial enough structure to withstand the weather.</p> <p>KL added that the bike repair station should be getting delivered shortly and that a piece has been put in the magazine to ask if anyone will volunteer to maintain the carvings as ideally they should be oiled twice per year.</p>	<p>KL</p>
<p><b>9. AOB</b></p> <p>KH reported that Norman McLeod has resigned as director due to work commitments. AM said he will be missed.</p>	