Fernaig Community Trust

Minutes of Meeting – 19 September 2017

Achmore Hall

Present: Colin McAndrew, Georgie Grimson, Lizzie Bird, Martin Irving, Duncan Gibson,

Dave Mockett and Neil MacRae

Apologies: Roddy McPherson

1.	Minutes of Aug meeting – Approved. Proposed by Georgie, seconded by Martin. Finance – update a) Expenses paid of £30 re CWA annual subscription b) Income was £253 from allotment rents 2017 to 2018 – a couple still outstanding				
2.					
3.	SDRP Footpaths				
	a)	Colin had emailed Robbie Bain (HC) re moribund CC account but has still not heard anything back. Colin will chase up again.	Colin		
	b)	Colin had no response to emails sent to Phil de Luca at Tilhill or someone who would be able to deal with this. He had sent further emails but had no response. Neil found and gave Colin Tilhill's no. so Colin will call.	Colin		
	c)	Colin has not yet sent round draft news/info release to publicise the grant to the Trust. This was due to pressure of other work but Colin will do this.	Colin		
		Lizzie at this point said, and it was agreed by all, that Colin deserved a big vote of thanks from the Board for dealing with the 'glitch' at the start of the contract which involved him in a lot of extra work.			
	d)	Work has started on the path by the hayfield and is very nearly completed apart from fencing, gates etc.			
	e)	Colin is expecting call from Andy Coleman, Highland Conservation, to fix up a progress meeting. This would clarify claim times on sections of the contract, due to be completed by end of February next year. Andy had supplied HSE details regarding the work and said that they would be as careful as possible to keep mess to a minimum appreciating that parts of the site were very wet from all the recent rain and they would be careful with any branch removal. The project will probably have a pause for around 6 weeks.			

	f)	The Board's Path Project sub-group will meet up in the next week or so and look at signage and finger post requirements.	PPSG
	f)	Short-term loans to the Trust, discussion held over to next meeting.	
	g)	George mentioned that we could add things/activities for children along the paths when completed and she is looking at various activities to see if we can source additional funding. Colin added that in the press release he would include information that the paths could be developed as a children's nature trail.	Georgie
	h)	Colin said we need to set up a management plan for the paths when completed, i.e. routine maintenance	
	i)	The crowd funding page was up and running and initially was a little disappointing but with more publicity this might improve. Colin had originally said this would be for a period of 30 days but with possible press interest he has extended this to 60 days.	
	j)	Duncan asked whether there was any possible funding from Scottish Sea Farms – unfortunately their support is not applicable their project figures are for £20K projects. Georgie mentioned whether it would be worth talking to the Co-op as they support local groups.	Georgie
	k)	Lizzie had received a supportive email from Colin Parsons following the general email she sent out regarding funding support. Colin was a little concerned that the footpath labelled 'formed by use' on the grant application map was not really fair to the people who had worked on the bridges/boardwalks. Lizzie had responded that the wording used was suggested by our HRC Access Officer to indicate 'unofficial paths' created without planning permission and not to approved standards. The Trust had wanted to show them on the application map to show recreational use of the land created by Trust members but personal information was not required for the application and, therefore, no slight was intended.	
4.	Lan	d issues	
	-	field – has not yet been cut probably due to the weather but is ected to be done soon.	
	this didn	Damaged bridge – top corner on nursery field. Crisdean has been using this with his tractor and one side has collapsed and flooding probably didn't help. The meeting discussed various options but one idea was to use a couple of the old fish farm walkways that FCS have. Lizzie will contact Bruce to see whether it would be possible to have one/two to replace the bridge.	
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wandering through the fence by the river, which should be resolved when the paths new fence work is in place. Neil tried a temporary repair but will re-look to see if he can resolve.

Neil

- b) Shed painting no good weather as yet!.
- c) Dave Mockett informed the meeting that he will have to stand down as a director as he starts a new job in November the Board were pleased about the job but sad that he will stand down in light of all his invaluable input over the past couple of years. We all wished Dave the best with his new career.
- d) Mention was made that if the Trust is considering planting more trees that 'Trees for Life' might be one route worth investigating.
- e) Lizzie mentioned that she had left a message for Bruce at FCS regarding the viewpoint from the car park in Strome Woods. The FCS has strimmed all around the car park but the view is being impacted by saplings just below the bench blocking the view.

It was suggested that we have a Concordat meeting in Spring next year.

Date of next meeting: 10th October, Achmore Hall at 7.30 pm

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm