



## **Management Group Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday 2 May 2013, 3pm, Estate Office, Applecross**

**Present:** Richard Wills (Chairman Applecross Trust), Archie MacLellan (AM), ALPS Chair (Applecross Trust), Gill Fairweather (Walks and Traditional crafts group), Tom Kilbride (co-opted member), Lesley Kilbride, Mike Summers (Applecross Crofters), Alistair McCowan (Historical Society), Jackie Liuba (co-opted member), Jess Whistance (JW)

**Apologies of absence:** Owen Kilbride (Archaeological Society), Derek MacLennan (Bealach Group) Lorna Lumsden (Applecross Trust), Mary Gibson (adviser), Alasdair Macleod (Community Council).

**Minutes of the April meeting agreed to be approved at the meeting in June to give everyone a chance to fully digest.**

### **Updates**

See attached document.

### **Applecross Chapel:**

It was agreed that a meeting with Andrew Wright and Mia Scott should be arranged to ensure that there is a handover process with Highland Buildings Preservation Trust, and that all loose ends are tied up.

JW to ensure that the chapel has been removed from promotion of geocache sites online.

### **South Coast Deer Fence (including layby and deer grid):**

JW confirmed that the fence will be complete by end of May and a deer management plan is now underway. JW confirmed that chains and latches had been bought for each of the gates along the fence line and so this would help to keep the fence secure without having to use a combination lock.

JW confirmed that she had spoken to Kevin Ronaldson about the pedestrian gate at the grid. Kevin would be happy to speak with Jackie Liuba and Alistair McCowan about the options if required. Kevin advised that he would be very nervous about putting in an additional gate at the edge of the verge at this stage due to the instability of the ground. He advised that we wait six months until the ground is more secure and then look at the options again. He also advised that a kissing gate would be the best option as this would guide people away from the edge. Alistair and Jackie agreed to revisit this once the ground is secure.

JW advised that Kevin would be returning the following week to complete the fencing at the gorge in Toscaig. JW confirmed that this would be additional to the original brief and therefore an additional cost.

### **Hebridean Barns:**

JW confirmed that work had begun on the floor of the northern barn but had temporarily stopped due to a discovery of original stonework. JW advised that Cathy Dagg was currently on site reporting on the finds with Nick Goldthorpe; work could begin again on the flooring w/c 6 May.

JW confirmed that the ring beam of the south barn was on and work was progressing. Jackie Liuba asked if there would be guttering. Alistair McCowan stated that there would not have been guttering originally and so there would be no guttering. JW confirmed that there was no further funding for guttering and that the dwarf walls would be sloped, which would provide as run-off for any water residue.

### **Lime Kiln:**

JW confirmed that the lime kiln is now complete and there is just the safety signage and an illustration due.

### **Gateway Woodland:**

**(Applecross pier)**AM updated the board on recent progress. He advised that he was in the process of producing a cashflow for the funders (STTS) for the pier. Bill Watson is due to apply for planning permission, which will take 12 weeks to approve. Work on the pier is therefore due to begin end October with a proposed finish date of end of 2013.

Tom Kilbride asked what the process would be for bringing in Ready-mix. AM stated that it would be Bill Watson that would be managing the work and he would employ Wallace Stone for the job so this would all be managed as part of the project. Richard Wills asked if it might be cheaper to bring the material in by boat. AM stated that this was an option but even the materials were to be delivered by road, there would not be a huge volume of traffic along the coast road and it would not make much difference to local residents.

Alistair McCowan reiterated that it was important to reinstate the stone cladding as part of the pier. AM agreed that this would be done through the drystone dyking project.

**(Gateway)** Approval for SRDP funding is not due until July. Therefore work will not to begin until July/Aug at the earliest. Other funders, HLF and Applecross Trust are both happy to proceed. Richard Wills asked if Highways has signed off on the project. AM confirmed that no, they had not. However, they would be involved throughout the process and so would advise of any work that needs to be carried out as part of the project.

Tom Kilbride wanted to reiterate that he would like some wood put aside for the community from Gateway. AM stated that the policy is that the community can help themselves to the wood on the estate provided they have the right certificates. Tom Kilbride stated that he was looking for a step beyond that. AM stated that to put wood aside from Gateway would mean a hole in the finances and therefore it might be wise to put wood aside at a later date from another of the estate's woodlands.

### **Interpretation:**

JW confirmed that she is waiting for the stands for the booklets. Once received, she will circulate together with the booklets to the various outlets for selling. AM asked how the income for the

booklets would be managed. JW confirmed that she could keep the income separate from all other income.

JW confirmed that the geology and archaeology booklets are in progress but moving along slowly. Mike Summers asked if Gordon Cameron could get involved in the archaeology booklet but Gordon confirmed that he would not, and that there were enough people involved as it was.

### **Bealach Interpretation:**

Richard asked about the 'stone mushroom' at the top of the Bealach. He thought this had been agreed to be removed. All agreed that this needs to be demolished.

### **Hazel Woods & Roundhouse:**

**Càrnach woodland:** Gill confirmed that there would be further events throughout the summer such as wild flower monitoring. The children would be continuing with forest schools and sleeping in hammocks.

Richard asked if anyone had monitored the age of the hazel and the level of regrowth. JW and Lesley confirmed that Les Bates had recorded both the ages of the hazel and regrowth which would be available in his report when completed.

**Roundhouse:** Lesley confirmed that the reed would be ready to collect w/c 6 May. Hopefully sharing transport with Abriachan. JW confirmed that Jimmy has agreed to store the reed in one of his barns.

Richard Wills asked how long the reed would last. Lesley confirmed that it should last 25 years. The reed is from RSPB and so is UK sourced. JW confirmed that Brian Wilson (thatcher) is coming in August and will take no longer than three weeks to complete.

Richard asked if we will have fire insurance before the thatching begins. Tom Kilbride agreed that this was required and asked if there was some way of doing this through the Trust. AM agreed that it can be itemised through Trust insurance and just needs adding to the list.

JW reminded the group that it was agreed that discussions about a possible lease would be discussed at this meeting. Richard stated that the Trust wanted a simple document agreeing that the public liability of the roundhouse and the fenced area of Càrnach belonged to the Walks and Traditional Crafts group. Gill Fairweather and Lesley Kilbride asked if this was necessary; could the roundhouse not be part of the Trust insurance as is the case for the Tree house. Richard confirmed that, yes, this is possible to do but they wanted the group to take responsibility for the building, deal with repairs, maintenance and ensure it is fit for purpose in the future. Richard asked if, everyone was in agreement, AM could draft a page document for Walks and Traditional Crafts Group to sign. Agreed. Lesley offered to speak with Abriachan as they have a similar situation.

JW stated that maintenance going forward was also the responsibility of ALPS. There is a ten year maintenance budget which is being accumulated as the project is progressing. Richard asked if this maintenance budget had been ring fenced. JW wasn't sure but thought it would be entirely possible to ring fence and would find out the exact details for the next meeting. Richard asked if it was possible to invest the maintenance budget. JW confirmed that there will be constraints on the maintenance fund – for example, if maintenance is not undertaken then HLF would be within its rights to claw back funds. Richard asked that a maintenance plan be drafted before the end of the project.

### **Walled Garden greenhouses:**

JW confirmed that she had received initial costings for restoring the greenhouses which amounted to £31,000. She confirmed that to do everything was not an option as this was way beyond the budget. JW has asked for a revised cost for one greenhouse and an interpretation area. JW awaiting this revised quote which will hopefully be within budget. JW noted that painting of the wood was required every four years and must also form part of the maintenance plan. A meeting is needed with Duncan McCowan to discuss various options with regards to the wood that will be used and the maintenance required. AM asked if the cold frames were included within the project and JW confirmed that they were not. All agreed that, although one greenhouse was not ideal, it was better than the state of the greenhouses now.

### **Policies Woodland:**

Richard would like to see planting of beech trees along the Beechwood path. Jackie Liuba stated she would not want beech trees fenced as a group. They should be individually fenced as this area is aesthetically a big part of Applecross for visitors and the community. Lesley Kilbride asked about the possibility of planting ash trees. Jackie confirmed that using ash trees from the Walled Garden would be possible. Richard stated that they would want ash, rowan, oak, beech and Scots pine. Ian Cameron had suggested there could be planting around the Lost Path where it is quite ugly. Richard Wills suggested planting around the arboretum. AM suggested following where trees were planted historically. JW confirmed that she had spoken to David Abraham and he had some ideas also. Richard asked if anyone knew how to grow Elm seedlings. Stated that it would be great to grow elm seedlings from the existing trees. Richard confirmed that at one point, the beech trees on the beech wood path used to come down towards the road. Tom Kilbride asked about monkey puzzle trees. Richard confirmed that his father had planted a large number throughout the estate. Mike Summers asked about the start date for the Policies Woodland. AM stated that Oct/Nov should be the start date for tree planting, with tree surgery taking place beforehand. JW confirmed that a deadline for ideas would be August.

### **Place Names:**

Gordon confirmed that the Place Names and Burial Ground Mapping project launch (together with Energy Efficiency project) will take place Tuesday 4 June.

### **Other matter arising**

Richard confirmed that door is always open. He confirmed that the Trust is visiting Applecross June 11/12 and they would like feedback on the format. Once ALPS is complete there would still need to be a mechanism to ensure that there is good communication going forward.

Lesley invited the Trust to Càrnach for morning coffee.

All agreed that there should be a formal meeting Wednesday 12 June from 12pm. Venue to be Clachan Church with catering provided. All community invited with opportunity to ask questions but also to find out about the Trust's plans for the estate.

ENDS

The next meeting was set for Monday 3 June 2013.