



Management Group Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 12th February, 7pm, Estate Office, Applecross

Present: Archie MacLellan (AM), Chair (Applecross Trust), Owen Kilbride (Archaeological Society), Derek MacLennan (Bealach Group) Tom Kilbride (co-opted member), Lesley Kilbride, Mike Summers (Applecross Crofters), Alistair McCowan (AMcC) (Historical Society), Alasdair Macleod (AMac)(Community Council), Gill Fairweather (Walks and Traditional crafts group), Mary Gibson (adviser), Jackie Liuba (co-opted member), Sam Bridgewater, **Apologies of absence:** Lorna Lumsden (Applecross Trust),.

Funding

JW presented the board with the progress made regarding the funding with ERDF and the issues surrounding LEADER and the Bardic School. JW stated that she was confident that the documents submitted to LEADER would be satisfactory and that she would do everything possible to secure funding for the 2013 event. DM expressed concern regarding the resolution of the issue and informed the board that after a meeting with the Bealach group, it had been decided to pursue the project regardless of existing funds. Alternative funding streams are being sought by Kate Cameron (Bardic School coordinator) and JW.

OK raised the question of support of the Applestock festival as this would fall into the LEADER funding. JW explained that if the extension from LEADER was to be rejected, the HLF funding is still secured and the organisers have been made aware of this from the beginning.

MG asked if, as a result of an underspend on some projects, there might be the option to move funds around. JW explained that at present, it was felt that no funds should be released for the Bardic School until LEADER was happy that it could be a sustainable event post funding.

Medieval chapel

AMcC questioned the role of ALPS in managing this project. AM reminded the group that this project has been undertaken independently from ALPS, and that match funding is being sought by Historic Scotland. The only part ALPS Has to play in this project is to release HLF match funding, to ensure that the project goes ahead and delivers.

South Coast Deer Fence

AM advised that JW should confirm depth of surfacing required to meet the Council guidelines before surfacing takes place on 15 February.

Barns

AMcC expressed concern over the amount of time taken by the Highland Council to approve planning for the southern hebridean barn. He asked that JW chase the Highland Council and ensure that progress is made asap.

A Meeting with Jane Wilkinson is agreed for 15 February to discuss options for the wattle screens on the northern hebridean barn. AMcC and Lesley Kilbride asked that they be included in the meeting. JW agreed.

Gateway woodland

AM explained that an application has been made by the Trust to the Scottish Timber Transport Scheme for the pier. AM stated that, if full grant was not approved, there could be ways to reduce costs of the pier such as building a simpler structure with no facing. Concern was expressed by members of the board (AMcC, OK, DM) about the possible loss of an archaeological feature if the pier was no longer faced. It was agreed by the board that the pier should be faced, even if funding was reduced, and that these costs could be allocated to the Drystone Dyking project.

HLF has agreed to release additional funding. However, the specification will need to be amended to reduce expenditure and a meeting is being organized with Bill Watson.

Hazel woods and roundhouse

GF and LK reported to the board a great enthusiasm for the project and also asked if a small budget could be allocated to the purchase of tools. JW confirmed that there was budget remaining within this budget for necessary items.

LK provided an update on the roundhouse. Reeds have been ordered for the thatching and Brian Wilson is booked for Spring. More work is required on the roof structure and hazel is currently being sourced from the Lochcarron area to complete this section of work..

Broch

OK explained that the new shed would provide necessary shelter for further archaeological excavations but will also form the backdrop for the interpretive panel. JW commented that there are remaining snagging works that must be done to complete the project. OK explained that Martin Wildgoose will give advice on how best to present the site to the public when he is next in Applecross.

The Broch leaflet, which has been drafted by Cathy Dagg, is with OK for comment. OK agreed that this and the Archaeological booklet do need to be completed by the summer.

Greenhouse

JW confirmed that a meeting is proposed between AMcC, Duncan McCowan, Peter and Jackie to run through plans for the greenhouses. AMcC confirmed that he would be available on Wednesday 13 February and that the meeting should go ahead at 2pm.

Land conditioning and habitat improvements

AM reminded the group about the opportunities for reseeding and ditching grants within the project and that anyone interested should get in touch.

Other matter arising

AM raised the question of the future of ALPS in the context of the Trust and how it should progress post HLF funding. He asked the MG to put forward suggestions and comments to start the ball rolling. Although nothing was agreed due to this being a discussion topic, it should be noted that the following points were raised:

- AM stated that the Trust is interested in increasing its interaction with the community and it was felt that ALPS provided a platform for delivering this in some capacity or other. It was felt also that the ALPS board already provided a good source for communication (GF) and represented a wide range of interests and stances within the community (OK).
- It was suggested that the board members would still have an interest in future developments (JL) but that potential projects would need to be identified in order to bring the same level of focus as currently exists (MS).
- There was a good deal of interest in pursuing projects that bring opportunity to the community, whether that be in the form of social improvement or land based activity. There was question over the current remit of the Trust. AM confirmed that the Trust's mission includes the preservation and promotion of the landscape and a certain number of projects could be progressed within that field. A forum could be organised to ascertain community opinion on future projects and what they might be (MG).

- It was felt that perhaps social issues could be included within the remit of the Trust in the future (TK).
- The legitimacy of individuals on the board was questioned and it was agreed that the future board would need to be elected by the community (OK).
- It was raised that the Trust would need to change its structure, possibly by welcoming local trustees or by considering some input from locals (TK, AML).
- There was some discussion about the recent past events regarding Land Action Scotland and the board was in agreement that no offence was intended in any action taken. The board also agreed that no personal offence was meant towards the Trustees or AM.
- AM will report the various suggestions to the Trustees.

The next meeting was set for Monday 4 March to predominantly discuss LEADER progress. However, the meeting was since amended to Monday 11 March.