



Management Group Meeting Minutes

Monday 29th October, 7pm, Estate Office, Applecross House

Present: Archie MacLellan (AM), Chair (Applecross Trust), Alistair McCowan (AMcC) (Historical Society), Gill Fairweather (Walks and Traditional crafts group) Tom Kilbride (co-opted member), Alasdair Macleod (AMac) (Community Council), Derek MacLennan (Bealach group), Jackie Liuba (co-opted member), Gordon Cameron (Heritage Manager), Jess Whistance, Elodie Matthews.

Apologies of absence: Owen Kilbride (Archaeological Society), Mike Summers (Applecross Crofters), Lorna Lumsden (Applecross Trust), Mary Gibson (adviser).

The minutes of the MG meeting of the 24th September were approved by all present and will be made available via the ALPS notice board and the website.

Updates

Provided on separate document.

Minutes

Jess Whistance, new Project Manager, was introduced to the board.

Each board member gave a quick update on their involvement with ALPS. LK provided an update on past events, including the roundhouse. The reeds for the thatching have been ordered and it is hoped that the thatching will be in place by Spring 2013.

JL provided an update on the guided walks. There is an enthusiasm to continue to provide these walks in some format going forward.

GC provided an update on graveyard mapping, digitisation and place names project (see separate document)

Gateway woodland

AML presented the board with the reviewed figures of income obtained from the contractors. The group agreed in principle for Angus Biofuels to be awarded the contract. The Community Company is in the process of applying for a grant for the redevelopment of the pier. No costs have been given at the moment for reinstatement of the pier but £200K is the rough estimate. There was some discussion about the ownership of the pier which, it was agreed, needs clarifying. AMac mentioned the possibility of a lease from the Crown Estate for the future use of the pier. No application submitted as yet but the deadline is mid November.

Trustees have agreed in principle to support most of the shortfall but it is still likely to be £130K short. AML has contacted HLF to ask for an increase of the budget through the contingency element of ALPS. The group approved of the process, as cutting costs alone would not be sufficient to cover

the shortfall. AML is liaising with Angus Biofuels with regards to possible alternative options such as reducing the area for mulching. TK enquired about mulching on the possible path line and leaving the rest un-mulched. JL asked if it would be possible to leave the border intact, to reduce the visual impact of works. All options will be considered.

SCDF

AML explained that the layby (being constructed by Duncan Fraser) was now bigger than originally planned, due to requirements from the council. The layby has been extended between two passing places. Duncan has advised that the surfacing should be left to settle before tarring in spring when there is less chance of frost. The next step will be to construct the grid; AML informed the group that according to the timescale, the fence would be done by the end of November. It was also mentioned that the Highland Council contributed to the project by transporting the materials. Hector McDonald (engineering consultant) will be meeting with AML, JW and DF to ensure that the project is to spec, and to advise of any additional/alternative methods that need to be employed.

Regarding the CCAGS grants, cheques have been paid into Toscaig and Camusterrach accounts in order to then invoice the townships individually. The Toscaig cheque bounced which will be rectified.

Paths

AML explained that, as a result of an underspend on the now completed pathworks, there is budget remaining for an additional pathworks project on the peninsula. Kenmore path was suggested as a good option as it is a well used path but will use most of the budget. On the group's agreement, JW will contact Bob Brown to produce a survey on Kenmore. AM expressed an interest for the section from Kenmore to Camus An Eilean. Another route suggested was the Coille Ghillie – Toscaig path. The group agreed to go ahead with advertising for the Torgarve path. The group agreed that JW should go ahead and obtain a specification for Kenmore, Camus An Eilean and two routes in Toscaig.

Dykes

AML asked the group for suggestions on drystone dyking works, since most of the budget allocated for the project was still unspent. DM suggested some of the walls in Ard Dubh but JL pointed out the fact that most of them belonged to private houses, which makes them ineligible for the project. JL raised the question of the wall running between Camusterrach and Culduie. AMcC believes there is an extensive list of possibilities. It was mentioned that a list of possible dyking work had been produced by Geoff Walker; it was agreed that this would be a good starting point. JW agreed to seek out the list and speak with Geoff.

Interpretation

JW provided the group with the background to the interpretation project and explained that, after all planned interpretation elements are complete, there would still be a considerable amount of funding remaining. JW advised that she would present various options at the next meeting but wanted to raise the possibility of funding a small project within the Walled Garden. The project

would be managed by Peter and would have a seating structure, some interpretation, and a Victorian theme. The MG agreed that JW could look into costs and a plan for this and present with the other options at the next meeting.

Other matter

GF raised the question of the Regeneration by Adventure project and suggested meeting with Sally Bassett. Match funding still needs to be put in place but gathering ideas to implement the project would make a good start. JW to set up a meeting with Sally and Amelia.

JL brought up the Walled Garden Greenhouse project. It was hoped that some of the ERDF funds could be diverted to bring additional match funding. AML thought that specifications should be obtained in order to present the project to the funders. TK asked if the new greenhouse would be faithful to the original design. AMcC agreed to advise on design but construction would have to be modern. Half of the renovated space would then welcome interpretation.

DM asked about the possibilities of funding for a DVD telling the story of the heritage, culture and landscape of Applecross. A DVD was produced in 2007 and this next one would be a follow-up of the original. The DVD would be produced by the Bealach Group. AML thought the DVD could possibly be funded through Bòrd Na Gàidhlig. JW advised that she would find out if this fitted with current funding requirements and if so, she would present it as an option at the next MG meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 3rd December.