

RAASAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a meeting of the committee of Raasay Community Association held on Monday March 7th 2005 at 8.15 pm at 3, The Cottages, Inverarish

Present

Roland Stiven (in the Chair)
Sadie McLeod
Caroline MacKechnie
Jill Westgarth
Apologies received from Geoff Langford

1. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meetings held on August 31st 2004 and November 3rd 2004 were signed and approved.

2. Update

- Bids had been submitted to the Big Lottery (successor to the Community Fund) at the end of November, and to Futurebuilders Investment Fund at the end of January.
- A telephone interview with Ronnie MacPherson, the local officer for the Big Lottery Fund, had taken place during February and it was felt had been generally positive.
- Feedback from Futurebuilders on the stage 1 application was due mid-March, and a decision from Big Lottery by the end of March.
- Highland Council had advised that the timing was too tight to enable them to submit an application for European funding as had been agreed at our meeting with them in October.
- Charitable status had at long last been agreed by Inland Revenue charities. In order to get this, it had been necessary to omit certain activities from the “objects” clause of the Memorandum of Agreement and to sign and process the formal documentation needed to achieve this amendment. Companies House had been notified. It was agreed to get a signed copy from Companies House for use in future applications.
- The Energy Feasibility study was due to be delivered this week. It would be necessary to pay for it and claim back the 100% grant of £4980 also during the coming week.
- The public meeting tentatively arranged at the last meeting had not been held, largely due to the delays in securing charitable status and other matters.
- Website – the website was due to be launched on March 26th between 1pm and 4 pm. Roland had updated RCA’s pages. The deadline for claiming grant had been extended to enable the site to be tweaked. Roland suggested that it might be a good opportunity to launch a membership drive for RCA. Jill said that she would try and prepare the necessary forms in time for March 26th but that she felt an explanatory note was needed as well as just the forms.
- A community update on progress would be prepared after Easter.
- The boundaries of the land were still with HIE’s solicitors; Sadie had recently received a letter which appeared to indicate that they were under the misapprehension that we were wanting more land, rather than merely to have a plan which correctly showed what we already have. It was agreed to try and clarify this at the meeting tomorrow with Robert Muir and Andrew Prendergast of SALE.

3. Company status

Jill circulated a paper that she had prepared on the various legal issues regarding the commencement of trading as Raasay Community Association and the winding up of Raasay Village Hall Association, which had been deferred until the charitable status issue had been resolved. There were also administrative and paperwork considerations to be addressed. She reported that she had notified Companies House of the change in accounting reference date to March 31st, as previously agreed.

Following discussion, it was agreed

- (i) formally to wind up Raasay Village Hall Association, as authorized at the Extraordinary General Meeting held on March 12th 2004;
- (ii) to commence trading as Raasay Community Association with effect from April 1st 2005;
- (iii) to continue to aim to hold the Annual General Meeting, before which the accounts would need to be laid, by the end of May if possible.

Note: (I) and (ii) above would simplify the accounting requirements for the years 2004/2005 (RVHA), the part year 2004/2005 (RCA) and 2005/2006 (RCA).

4. Meeting to be held on March 8th with SALE

A meeting was to be held tomorrow with Robert Muir and Andrew Prendergast of SALE, at their request.

It was agreed to try and firm up on the level of financial support that SALE might be able to provide, but also to try and impress upon them the difficulties of the present situation with no community facilities, a rapidly growing young population and growing disillusion with the length of time it was taking to show any real progress.

5. Date of next meeting

It was agreed to fix a provisional date for the next meeting for Monday April 11th. At this meeting the following items would need to be discussed:

- Paperwork requirements, letterhead etc.;
- Letters to suppliers etc. advising of change to company status
- The Annual General Meeting

The meeting closed at 9 45 pm.