

RAASAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a meeting of the committee of Raasay Community Association held on Wednesday October 5th 2005 at 4 Inverarish Terrace

Present

Roland Stiven (RS) (in the Chair)

Sadie McLeod (SM)

Davie Carslaw (DC)

Jill Westgarth (JW)

Apologies received from Caroline MacKechnie and Geoff Langford

1. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on July 19th 2005, the draft of which had been previously circulated, were signed and approved.

2. Matters arising from the minutes

- (a) SM updated the meeting on the situation regarding the mineral rights and the playing field. SALE was now suggesting that a way forward may be to lease the rights to SEERAD who would then lease them to the Community Council. A meeting involving playing field users was to be set up prior to meeting with Andy Mackay of Highland Council. DC commented that the goalposts were in a very poor state of repair; the meeting felt that this was potentially unsafe. SM agreed to query the ownership of the goalposts with the Council and the possibility of some funding for their urgent repair or replacement.

Sadie

- (b) Memorandum and Articles – SM would check her emails to find what response we had had from Douglas Graham, in answer to the letter we sent him in June 2005. The matter needed urgently to be resolved and in any event by the time we finalized the funding package.

Sadie

- (c) SM reported that we are still awaiting a response from HIE's solicitors concerning the land boundaries.

- (d) The updates referred to in minute 5 had been sent out; JW thanked SM and everyone else who had been involved with the distribution. SM gave details of donations received from 2nd home-owners, including an anonymous one for £1,000. The total raised since the updates was some £1,800. SM and JW had written to most of those who had made donations, and it was agreed to write to the remainder.

Sadie/Jill

3. Funding update and new village hall

(a) Latest funding situation

- RS reported that he had written to the Big Lottery Fund regarding an extension of time for commencing spending on the project. This had been agreed via email but he was still waiting for written confirmation.
- Scottish Arts Council had turned down our application for funding.

- BBC Children in Need had awarded us £35,000, the cheque for which had been received and banked.
- JW reported that she had received in today's post an offer of £15,000 from the Robertson Trust. She would write and thank the Trust for this, which was in excess of the amount usually awarded.

Jill

- RS said that he had had a phone call from Communities Scotland indicating that we would receive something from Futurebuilders Seedcorn Fund, but he did not yet know how much. The offer letter was expected to be sent out on Thursday.
- The Application for ERDF funding had gone in on time in early September. JW said she thought we should update John Farquhar Munro and Hamish Fraser on all the above and suggest that they should use any opportunity to lobby with regard to the European application.

Jill

- It was agreed to keep the community at large informed, this time by putting a notice on the Board.

(b) Next steps

- RS said that he felt we should now get revised costings from the Quantity Surveyors for the building and also from the Service Engineer regarding the renewables, which it was hoped could be re-instated if funding permitted. The cost involved would be reasonably small and it would enable us to have a clearer picture when it came to more detailed discussions with funders. It was agreed to go ahead with this.

Roland

- SM reported she had attended a Lloyds TSB funding seminar, where she had been told that there was funding available for up to 3 years for a support worker. It was not clear whether we could apply for this as well as for capital costs – it had been previously suggested that we could use this funding source for upgrading the kitchen specification.

4. Raasay Outdoor Centre – West Wing agreement

SM reminded the meeting that we had not had an updating meeting with ROC in the spring, and since then no further payments had been made under the agreement whereby the Centre had the use of those rooms allegedly covered by their lease. It was most important that we received some payment urgently, since ROC had had keys to the West Wing throughout the summer and had made much more use of it than last year. DC confirmed that every time he had been to the building, there had been ROC activity in the West Wing. SM commented that she had on occasion found heaters left on when the building was empty. She also reported that the Youth Club had paid £160 towards its invoices for use of the building.

It was agreed to seek a meeting urgently with ROC, a suggested date being during the week October 24th – 28th.

Sadie

5. Rate relief

RS submitted a Highland Council form regarding rate relief. This needed to be completed and returned with copies of the last 2 years' accounts and the constitution. Jill agreed to deal with this.

Jill

6. Youth Club, swimming club and other activities

Various members reported on a meeting held the previous week concerning the formal setting-up of a swimming club, either separately or with the youth club or RCA. It was felt that this needed to be a separate group from the Community Association at present, since we would have a very large amount of ongoing work once the hall package was completed.

JW raised the subject of a bonfire and said she felt that we should write in plenty of time to Andrew and Anne Gillies who had written to us after last year's event. It was clear that there was no other venue which offered both a site for the bonfire and shelter for refreshments, and no further contact on this point had been received. Following discussion, it was agreed to hold the bonfire as before and to write to Mr. And Mrs. Gillies giving them advance notice of the date, which was provisionally fixed for Friday November 11th, to avoid a clash with the Free Presbyterian Communion the previous week.

7. Any other business

SM said that Radio Cuillin FM had suggested that the new hall should contain equipment for a small studio, for which a grant might be forthcoming. This was felt a good idea providing that it did not compromise the flexibility of the available space.

SM reported that she had had a query concerning the availability of the West Wing for a wedding reception in summer 2006. She had checked this with Andrew Prendergast of SALE, in view of the possibility of building work taking place in the house by then, and had been told that there was "the outside chance" of work taking place during the following winter, 2006/2007. She therefore assumed that we could go ahead with this and the usual programme of events.

JW drew attention to a programme of consultation events being arranged by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator in connection with proposals for the new regulatory regime for charities. She expressed an interest in attending if no-one else wished to do so, and it was agreed that she would attend the Inverness event in January 2006.

8. Date of next meeting

As there was likely to be a series of developments over the next few weeks, it was agreed that we needed to meet more regularly and a provisional date for the next meeting was therefore fixed for Tuesday October 29th at Sadie's house. This to be confirmed, or cancelled if unnecessary.

As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35 pm.