

Minutes of the Applecross Forum
Wednesday 13 June 2019, 6.30pm
Applecross Community Hall

Attendance:

Sheriff Kathrine EC Mackie (KECM), Chair Applecross Forum

Rodger Harvey Jamieson (RHJ), Chair Applecross Trust

Kirsten Mackie (KM), Appleseed Allotments Group

Owen Kilbride (OK), Chair Applecross Community Company

Ros Clarke (RC), Applecross Community Company

Megan MacInnes (MM), Community Woodland Group

Gregor Watson (GW)

Gerry McPartlin (GM)

Gill Fairweather (GF), Applecross Forum Working Group, Walks and Crafts Group

Lynn Turner (LT), Appleseed Allotments Group, Working Group for Community Fund

Tery McCowan (TM), Sports Group, Working Group for Community Fund

Jon Glover (JG), Applecross Forum Working Group, Sports Group, Chair Community Council,
Working Group for Community Fund, Helipad Fundraising Group

Arthur Macdonald (AMac), Applecross Trust

Archie MacLellan (AM), Applecross Trust

Henry Robertson (HR)

Thomas Kilbride (TK)

Lesley Kilbride (LK), Walks and Crafts Group

Sue Grocock (SG), Applecross Forum Working Group

Phil Buckley (PH)

Judith Fish (JF), Apple Juice

Kenny MacLean (KMac)

Alan Wright (AR)

Roger Evans (RE)

Thomas O'Halloran (TO), Vice Chair, Applecross Forum

Julie Baird (JB)

Sarah Paramor (SP)

Apologies:

Fiona Mackenzie, Jackie Luiba, Sarah McCowan, Jack Marris

Minutes of the meeting 13 March 2019

All agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting (13 March 2019) were a true account. Proposed by LT and seconded by RC.

1. Action Tracker

KECM proposed to remove completed and lapsed items from the Action Tracker.

2. Community Fund

JG presented a report (available on the Applecross Forum website) prepared by the short life working group. The group had concluded that the format of the organisation to hold the fund depended on how the money is used. Three options were proposed, namely:-

1. Community organisation or small scale business funding
2. Property investment
3. Donate to ACC affordable housing projects

The group favoured the second option.

KECM observed

1. that the remit of the working group was to come up with a working structure for the handling of the Community Fund, not to propose how the money should be spent.
2. That those who had attended the last meeting and/or read the minute would not have expected a proposal for distribution of the fund
3. that the Community Fund should not be considered as a lump sum to be dispersed given the continuing obligation of Innogy and the potential for receipt of further grants.
4. that the funds as they stand now are providing benefit to the Trust and not the community.

A lively debate followed in which differing views were expressed. Reservations were expressed about the statutory ability of the CC to hold and manage a fund and about the potential conflict of interest of the ACC doing so. A question arose as to how, and by whom, any decision might be made. When the Forum was established it was on the basis that it was not a decision making body. It was proposed that it was time to review the governance of the Forum.

ACTION:

1. To consider the governance of the Forum
2. To seek to engage the wider community on how to spend the Community Fund
3. To consider the means of holding the fund

2. Community Council Report

JG stated that they had had £35,000 of applications for the SSE Fund from within the community. To date they had spent approximately £19,000.

The Community Council had made a decision to fund all the applications but to reduce proportionately the amount granted to each application. They had funded the following groups/projects:

Village Hall, Toddlers' group, minibus, Applecross Primary School, War Memorial Group, Heritage Society, Skiff Club, Archaeological Society, ACC, Appleseed Allotment Group. The balance was then donated to the Heli Pad fund.

The Community Council met with the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund to discuss the issues with the road. The improvements of the passing places to create various viewpoints were considered uncontentious. There will be stone interpretation panels, and these are a requirement of the grant.

The issue of campervans staying at the Bay is being monitored. It is noted that the issue seems to have lessened since the large stones were put in place the previous year, however, the area opposite Clachan is still quite busy. It is now on an app of 'Where to park your campervan'.

ACTION: A map of the viewpoints to be scanned and added to the Forum website.

3. Community Company report

RC stated that there was a meeting planned for w/c 18 June 2019 of ACC, Highland Council, Applecross Trust and Scottish Land Fund to discuss the Plan-it Applecross report. There had been 16 responses to the consultation and the stakeholders would review the comments and sign off the report at the next meeting. The Plan-it Applecross report will be the focus for the near future.

RC stated that NHS had approved transfer of the land adjacent to the Applecross Surgery and construction of the planned housing will begin in September.

RC confirmed that the Community Company had applied for funding from Cycling Scotland with a view to providing 10 electric bikes for community use. RC also confirmed that the

Community Company would be donating £1,000 from Bealach Mor sportive to the Heli Pad fund.

SG also confirmed that the donation she received of £200 from the Bealach Mor sportive (for providing flapjacks and supporting the cyclists on the day) would also be donated to the Heli Pad fund.

OK stated that there are many ideas within the Plan-it Applecross report but the assumption should not be made that the Community Company will deliver these potential projects. The Community Company would focus on housing, but it is down to other community groups to develop projects from the Plan-it Applecross report.

4. Sports Group

No further update at this time.

5. Clachan Chairs

No further update at this time.

KECM raised the question whether an approach might be by ACC made to acquire Cammusterrach Church for residential purposes. It was suggested that the Church of Scotland were unlikely to be amenable to such an approach.

6. Appleseed Allotment Group report

KM confirmed that the group had met with the Community Company and it had been agreed that the Appleseed Allotment Group would come under the umbrella of the Community Company for a year, and ACC would take on the lease.

KM stated that she was in the process of gaining quotes for fencing, sheds etc. She confirmed that the group would have a stand at the Highland Games.

ACTION: JG stated that he would now write a cheque for Appleseed Allotment Group from the SSE grant.

7. Applecross Trust Report

RHJ apologised for the moving of start dates for Smiddy Wood felling. He explained that it was due to the commercial state of the price of timber and that it was necessary to fell the

woodland earlier rather than later. AM stated that there had been no issues to date but if there was anything of concern then please get in touch with either AM or JW.

KECM asked if there had been a risk assessment for the gates on Roes Walk as these seemed to be very heavy with sharp points and potentially dangerous. This had been noted and work was to be carried out to rectify issues.

KECM asked when Smiddy (building) renovations would be completed. AM confirmed that it would likely be end July.

KECM stated that earlier in the meeting there had been discussion about the Innogy contribution to the Community Fund. She asked for clarity on what the terms are between the Trust and Innogy.

AM stated that the contribution is agreed at £5,000. However, Innogy is currently looking at whether the scheme is viable and if not this would have an impact on the £5,000 community contribution.

ACTION: Gates on Roes Walk to be rectified

AM to provide information on letting of Smiddy Cottage

Further information to be provided on proposed Innogy scheme

8. Community Woodlands Group

MM confirmed that the group had met four times and held a public meeting to gain community views on a community run woodland. She confirmed that the initial deadline to put a proposal to the Trust is now not so urgent. The group met with John Collingdale to survey the wood at Torgarve. The group is now putting together tenders for a feasibility study and looking at whether they might be able to come under the umbrella of the Community Company. Focus at the moment is as follows:

1. Application for Stage 1 funding with Scottish Land Fund
2. Put together a proposal for the Trust to purchase Torgarve and Carnach woodlands
3. Get the feasibility study underway

9. Heli Pad Fund

JG presented a verbal report on behalf of the Healthcare Association. A site has been determined: the triangle between the hall and the shop road. There is a heli pad consultant arriving 14 June 2019 to discuss the details. There will be lots of fundraising. Chris Ward is the person leading the project. HELP can provide up to 80% funding.

ACTION: Heli Pad to remain on the agenda and that Chris Ward be invited to come along to the next meeting.

10. Secretary of the Forum

KECM stated that JW had resigned from the role of secretary and thanks were extended to her for the work that she had carried out on behalf of the Forum. KECM also stated that it had been very difficult to find someone to take on the post and it was not clear whether this was associated with the financial remuneration available. Elaine Glover had volunteered to fulfil the role meantime. GM had also agreed to provide support with updating the website.

AOB

KECM enquired about the reeds for the roundhouse and whether the restoration had been completed. A quantity of reeds had been found in the barn at Keppoch. The restoration was complete but the reeds should be retained for the future. AM stated arrangements would be made to find alternative storage.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 2 October 2019

ENDS