

**MINUTE
of
APPLECROSS COMMUNITY FORUM**

Date: 8 December 2021, 7.00pm

Venue: Online, Zoom meeting

Attendees (21)

KM Kathrine Mackie (Chair)

RHJ. Rodger Harvey-Jamieson (Chair Applecross Trust)

AM. Archie MacLellan (Applecross Trust)

AMacD Arthur MacDonald (Applecross Trust)

JM Jack Marris (Applecross Community Hall)

SV. Saara Viitanen

FM. Fiona Mackenzie

KW. Kalie Wilkinson

HG. Hugh Gosling (Secretary Shieldaig Community Council)

GM. Gerry McPartlin

AMc. Anne Macrae

JW. Jessica Whistance

GW. Gregor Watson

TO'H Tom O'Halloran

RC. Roslyn Clarke

AG. Alan Gillies

BG. Barbara Gillies

VH Valerie Hodgkinson

JF Judith Fish

GC Gordon Cameron

MM Megan MacInnes (Applecross Community Company)

1. Welcome & Apologies

KM welcomed everyone. Apologies were noted from Owen Kilbride, Valerie Macpherson, Kenneth McDiarmid, Jon Glover, Tery McCowan, David Mackie.

2. Minute of the meeting held on Wednesday 1 September 2021

The minute was accepted as true and accurate, proposed by GM and seconded by RHJ.

3. Action Tracker and Matters arising

KM reported that following the last meeting KW had been successful in persuading Roy Foster of the Alt na Moine hydro development to pay direct to Shieldaig Community Association a sum of £5,000 in respect of their claim arising from disruption caused by vehicles associated with the development. In these circumstances no further approach had been made to the developers and payment out of the community fund was not necessary. KW advised that payment had been received. KM confirmed that relevant application could be made to the community fund in future.

Item 1 – AM reported that Torgarve would be let to Debra Carr (Debbs) and 8 Milton would be let to Maryck & Agnes. There had a been a delay in the

refurbishment of the Old Forge cottage due to difficulties in obtaining materials. Completion was expected in early 2022. The property was to be let to Flo.

Item 8 – RHJ advised that the Trust were looking to the Forum to present proposals for the use to which available properties might be put. These properties included the Steading, the old stables and the cart shed at entrance to campsite. He confirmed that the Trust would be happy to take forward proposals dependent upon the end use. It was decided to leave the item on the Action Tracker meantime.

Item 9 – AM reported that a quotation for the necessary repairs was awaited to be put to the insurers. He advised that limited progress had been made towards identifying a group to take on responsibility in the future. The Trust would welcome interest from any group willing to be in charge of its use and maintenance.

Item 10 – No progress made to date. Item to remain on the Action Tracker in view of its importance to the community.

4. Update Reports

a) Community Company

The [ACC update](#) was received. GM commented that the company and in particular Owen and Ros were to be congratulated on the progress they had made in recent years. KM extended thanks to Ros and Saara for their contributions as LDOs and for their assistance to the Forum. Megan and Gregor were welcomed as the new LDOs. The development of the company and the progress with a variety of projects was noted with appreciation and thanks were extended to all involved and to Owen for leading the Board.

MM reported that there was to be a company Open Day probably on 20 January 2022 to consult on proposals for the use of Camusterrach Church. Posters would be put up to advise date and time.

RC enquired about progress with the An Toll Ban housing development. MM reported that there had been a number of applications which were being dealt with by Community Housing Trust. The outcome of these should be known shortly. Entry would not be until January 2022.

b) Community Council

[CC Minutes](#) of 23 August, 20 September and 4 November all 2021 were received. No representative of the Community Council was in attendance.

KM enquired whether the list of signage referred to in the minutes was available for viewing. She also queried the rationale behind the suggestion that a yellow line be painted on the wall side of Shore Street and raised concerns about whether residents had been involved in discussions about the proposal for residents' parking. She pointed out that the title of her property in Shore Street extended 6 feet into the roadway. GC reported that he was aware of vehicles, particularly motorcycles being parked on the wall side near to the Inn.

KM enquired whether the issue of public safety discussed at the last meeting had been passed to the Community Council in the absence of any reference in the minutes.

GW suggested that an approach be made to Ali Brown and/or Mark Carrington at the Inn for clarification. In his position as Ranger he had had to request people move their vehicles from for example the Milton cattle grid area. He suggested that the whole issue of non residents parking needed consideration.

c) Applecross Trust

[The Trust updates](#) were received without comment.

RC enquired whether the Trust would consider appointing as Trustee someone from the community. RHJ advised that he had raised recently that question with his fellow Trustees and was expecting responses early in the new year. A full answer should be available at the next meeting of the Forum. He suggested that there was a difficulty in identifying what was meant by “the community”. RC accepted that a definition of community may be difficult but suggested that in Applecross there was a strong sense of community and while there were a number of different groups there were many individuals who were involved in many or all of them. She expressed confidence that the people of Applecross could come together to identify a potential Trustee.

RC also enquired what plans the Trust had for the sum of £270,000 obtained from the community from the sale of the hydro field and Torgarve Woodlands and whether they would consider donating to the community fund or other community project. RHJ advised that he had asked his fellow Trustees recently to consider how this money might best be used. He emphasised that the Trust was a conservation charity and they had conservation projects ready to be launched. The money was likely to be absorbed by these projects. Once the Trustees had given consideration to these projects RHJ would intend to bring these to the Forum to seek agreement in relation to where the emphasis should go. He suggested that the Forum was key. RC enquired whether there might be wider consultation given that not everyone was able to attend Forum meeting or was interested in doing so. RHJ suggested that the Trustees might join with the Community Company at their proposed Open Day. MM invited RHJ to discuss out of the meeting. RHJ also confirmed that it would be open to the community to suggest potential projects. KM reminded everyone that it was a purpose of the Forum to bring to the table potential projects and that this had happened in the past. RC suggested that consideration be given to funding affordable housing. MM advised that the Community Company had experience in carrying out community consultations and would be happy to work with the Trust to develop a plan. She also advised that from the number of applications

received for An Toll Ban it was clear that affordable housing continued to be an urgent and pressing need.

A query was raised as to whether the Trust was looking to Scottish Government's Nature Restoration Fund for conservation funding. AM indicated that they were not aware of that fund but confirmed that they were looking for match funding for projects.

RC enquired about deer management proposals. RHJ advised that this was a wider issue than just Applecross. It was necessary to engage with neighbouring estates. A new 5 year plan was being embarked upon and there was a need to discuss with the community.

d) Helipad

No change to previous update.

e) Community Fund

No representative available. No change to previous update. Awaiting OSCR approval.

f) Tourism Management Group

The Group's [update report](#) was received without comment. KM requested that the issue of public safety be raised and if appropriate passed to the Community Council for consideration. JW confirmed she would do so.

5. Applecross Community Hall

JM delivered a presentation [and report](#) explaining the dire financial position of the Hall. They had running costs of £15,000pa and had lost significant income

as a result of the covid restrictions. Steps were being taken to form a SCIO which would allow access to other forms of funding. There were also plans to arrange a variety of events to raise funds. The situation was urgent because the Hall had obligations of about £3,500 to meet before the end of January 2022 without at present the funds with which to do so. He invited the Forum to agree that the money received from the Alt na Moine developers (£5,000pa) be given to the Hall.

KM agreed that the Hall was an important asset for the community. She advised that with the agreement of the Trust her honoraria would be donated to the Hall. She invited the Trust to consider the Hall as one of the projects previously discussed under item 4 (c). RHJ responded positively to that suggestion. TO'H supported the need for a regular source of income rather than one off payments.

KM reminded everyone that the payment of £5,000pa by the developers was an obligation in terms of their lease with the Trust. The Trust in terms of the lease were to direct where the community benefit was to be paid. It was the understanding of the Forum, without any legal agreement, that this payment would be made to the Community Fund. It would be for the Trust to determine whether the payment to the Fund would be recurring.

MM cautioned against focusing on the longer term vision when there was an urgent short term need for funding to keep the Hall running. She raised the question whether the Trust would be prepared to release money from the that held by them pending completion of the formalities to establish the SCIO for the Community Fund. GM agreed that the Hall was an important and vital community asset. There was a need to arrange an injection of cash urgently. Once the SCIO was established in a few months' time the question of funding from the Community Fund could be looked at again. He and VH both commended the work done by JM and SV to date to sort things out.

KM reminded everyone that in another deserving case the Forum agreed that some money be released from the community fund in advance of the establishment of the SCIO. She raised the question whether those in attendance were in agreement that a "crisis" payment rather than a recurring

payment as sought by JM should be released from the community fund to the Hall to tide them over until a more detailed plan could be put in place. She enquired of the Trust whether they would be in a position to make such a payment if the mood of the meeting were that this should be done.

RHJ expressed the view that there was a problem. He commented that the Forum was not a decision making body. He indicated that it would be necessary to know if the whole community were in support. KM commented that that was not a reservation expressed when consideration was being given to a payment being released to Shieldaig. RHJ repeated the need to take advice from everyone who would be affected and in relation to the previous case any payment was to be subject to the granting of an indemnity. KM then enquired whether the Trust would be prepared to make a donation to the Hall to assist. RHJ indicated that he and JM could have a discussion about the situation outwith the Forum. JM expressed willingness to discuss the situation but had concerns about any potential delays and unsatisfactory outcomes. KM pointed out that the action being taken to establish a SCIO and the instruction to the Trust to hold the community fund for the benefit of the community until the SCIO was established followed discussion and agreement at meetings of the Forum. She enquired how the Trust proposed to otherwise obtain the advice of the community to which there was no response.

KM sought confirmation that her honorarium would be paid to the Hall immediately. RHJ indicated that he needed to know that it was going to a recognised body which was in a position to accept the money. He believed that there may be legal issues that would impinge upon payment being made. KM advised that the Hall was a registered charity with OSCR and continued to operate. On that basis RHJ confirmed that he was happy to pay over to the Hall the amount of £1,500 being the Chair's honorarium.

KM enquired whether there was anyone present who would not be in favour of the money under discussion, that is a crisis payment of £5,000 from the community fund, being transferred to the Hall and whether anyone knew of anyone who would be opposed to such a transfer. There was no one present opposed to the proposal or who knew of anyone who was so opposed. KM

confirmed that JM had the overwhelming support of those present and no one was aware of any contrary view.

6. Review of Forum

KM reminded everyone that in November 2020 some decisions had been made in relation to the governance of the Forum. One was that an Advisory Group be formed to assist the Chair and to review its workings. JW and TO'H were the only volunteers. One of the recommendations was that the review of the workings of the Forum should be carried out every two years with a report to the Forum. KM advised she had asked JW and TO'H to commence that work. KM was willing to assist.

7. Election of the Chair

KM recorded that she had been honoured to have been asked to Chair the Forum and had been privileged to have been involved in its evolution and its contributions to developments in the community and the engagement with the Trust. She expressed thanks to all who had assisted and provided help and guidance throughout the past three years.

KM asked for nominations. GM nominated Jon Glover and confirmed he was willing to take on the role. There being no other nominations Jon Glover was elected Chair of the Forum.

GM and RHJ expressed thanks to the Chair.

8. AOB

There was no other business.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Meeting provisionally arranged for Wednesday 23 March 2022