



A meeting of NCDC was held on: Monday, 2nd May 2022, at 7:30pm, virtually, via Zoom

Present – Bob McGeady (RM - Chair), Margaret Roberts, Alistair Williamson, Bill Manson, James Titcomb, Harry Haslam

In Attendance – Charlotte Slater, Iain Davidson, Mandy Hunter, Esmée Buchet-Deak (Yoyo), Cllr. Emma MacDonald

1. Apologies – Laura Jamieson

2. Approval of Minute – Minutes of meeting on 28th October 2021 were approved by RM and seconded by MR. Minutes of 28th March 2022 were approved by RM and seconded by MR

3. Financial update – BM reported that the budget for 2022/23 was currently working on a month-by-month basis until there was more information on which projects would be pursued and costs of those analysed. Attempts had been made to find an interest-bearing bank a/c with instant access in which to place the bulk of funds but it was proving difficult to source such so, in the interim it was proposed that around £300K+ be transferred to the existing reserve account to benefit from the 0.01% interest offered there. RM suggested looking beyond the traditional bank a/c to make an investment but, while BM agreed that this may be beneficial, he warned that they would need to ensure that any investment was approved by OSCR. It was proposed that CS make contact with OSCR to seek advice and MR suggested it would also be helpful to seek advice from DTAS.

Action: CS to contact OSCR and DTAS; BM to continue checking with banks; ID to transfer funds to NCDC reserve account

4. Hillswick shop update - ID reported that the shop had ended the financial year 21/22 with an initial Net Profit of around £10k which included around £7K from sale of shop van. Trade was continuing well but there were some staff shortages due to Covid in the area which may lead to the shop having to close early. It was proposed that warnings be put out on social media well in advance that this was a possibility.

5. Nortenergy update - HH reported that orders were steadily growing and the work in establishing a Cumbrian Hub was progressing well. The shed is also coming along well with the floor nearing completion and the doors and electrics next on the agenda. The Nantwich Hub is up and running but a solid transport partner is still needed. MR asked if there were any signs that the Cost of Living crisis had caused a drop off in orders but HH reported that this did not seem to be the case.

6. Growing Local Project – MH and Yoyo reported that the first 3 workshops had been completed with good feedback received from each. They had met with the team involved in the Ollaberry shore front project and were currently trying to contact Harry Ruddick for a

quote for the construction of the Polycrub there. It was suggested that the best way to get holds of him would be to go along to his workshop. Yoyo also reported that she had done the radio interview regarding the workshops and the Peerie Voar seed packs were ready to be sent out. There was a meeting coming up with the Stucca project team and also with SFAD on the Crofting App.

There followed considerable discussion on the Stucca project and the size of Polycrub required. The initial plan for a very large Polycrub was now in question as there was limited interest among the residents. Some directors felt that a Peerie Polly may be counter-productive as others, who might wish to come on board later, may feel there was no room for them. Ultimately, directors felt that they should be led by what the residents wanted which should become clearer after the meeting

Action: MH & YB to send out seed packs/newsletter and to report back on various meetings

7. Line Management of Staff – MR reported that, after discussions with ID about the lack of a Line Manager for the van driver leaving some issues unresolved. BM stated that the directors should get together to discuss line management in general but, in meantime, JT agreed to take on the role with regards to van driver, although it was noted that, as a customer of the van service, there may be occasional issues which would require the intervention of another director.

Action: JT to take on role of Line Manager to TB

8. Discussion of old Urafirth School survey report – Directors all agreed that the survey provided a much more optimistic view of the buildings than first thought. RM was confident of gaining financial and other support from Scottish Land Fund to pursue the project. It was agreed that first step should be to meet with SIC to clarify exactly what the proposal for asset transfer entailed. RM proposed that himself and AW should take the lead on the project and this was agreed. AW proposed that they get the schoolhouse let as soon as possible to help fund the rest of the project. A consultation with the community was planned for June. BM reminded those present that SIC would want a Business Plan with evidence of community need and desire for the proposal. All agreed that it should be pursued and initial meeting be set up asap.

Action: CS to set up meeting with SIC for RM/AW

9. Project Ideas – HH took the lead by sharing a presentation with his initial ideas for several projects, including, Accessible Boardwalks, Community Gym, Community Workshop/Art Studio, Development/Renovation of Hillswick Shop, a scheme for Household Energy Grants and some Income Generating schemes. RM commented that many of these ideas could be incorporated into the Urafirth School plans.

MH suggested a Men's Shed including some sort of repair service

MR suggested that Housing should be a priority at present and that Urafirth would be the best place for that.

BM suggested utilising the phone boxes as information points to signpost the facilities and attractions throughout Northmavine.

Action: HH to forward his slides to all those present

10. Matters Arising – Nothing further

11. AOCB – MR reminded everyone that we still require new directors.

12. Date of Next Meeting – 6th June 2022

Meeting ended: 20:33

