**MINUTES OF ARISAIG COMMUNITY TRUST BOARD**

Monday 23 September 2013

Land, Sea and Islands Centre

7 pm

**Present**: Chair – Eve MacKenzie

Hugh Cameron: Heather Cameron: Gordon Stewart: Martine Wagenaar:

Joyce Wilkinson: David Buick: Maggie Kane

**Minutes**: Rosemary Bridge

**Apologies**: Alison Stewart (LDO)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING - ADOPTED

Proposed: Eve MacKenzie Seconded: Hugh Cameron

MATTERS ARISING - None

LDO Report

Gordon Stewart spoke to the LDO Report, a copy of which will be circulated electronically to Directors.

PITCH and TOILETS

Lengthy discussions took place regarding the best way forward with regard to upgrading of the pitch and the toilets. Agreed that the pitch drainage requires attention and there should be proper access from the road. There was some confusion regarding whether or not an astro turf pitch should be considered. The feeling of the meeting was that all this had been discussed and agreements reached some time ago, but to date no progress has been made. Secretary to look through previous minutes to clarify this point.

A decision needs to be reached on the scale of upgrade needed for the toilets as the possibilities are many:

should there be hot water: current floor tiles are porus: panels on the roof and/or on the hill behind: difficult to clean presently: very little light coming through: volunteers to paint the walls – or not: (?)

Checks needs to be made on requirements and on receipt of a grant there may be a minimum standard of refurbishment necessary. ECO toilets would attract funding more readily.

The requirement for a Feasibility Study may be the stumbling block as there is no grant money available to carry this out. Agreed finally to go for the best possible choice and seek quotes for the work.

**Farm Shop**

Joyce Wilkinson gave feeback on an event she had recently attended re farm shops and systems set up for selling local produce. All agreed that such a provision would be beneficial to the village. If projects of this type were to be progressed for Arisaig, then assistance could be available under the Highland Council umbrella with appropriate guidance from Environmental Health. There remains a difficulty with securing land for allotments.

Social Enterprise Course

Information on this had been e mailed to directors as it is relevant to the LSIC. It is hoped that 4 members will attend.

TREASURERS REPORT

Gordon Stewart distributed information to the meeting.

POST OFFICE

The business plan (approximately 100 pages) has been submitted and is currently being processed with an interview date of 7th or 9th October. There remain no guarantees of funding and although all information required has been forwarded to the Arisaig Partnership, to date there has been no definitive answer given on the funding issue.

Some Directors continued to have significant reservations, indicating that there was no real evidence that the project would succeed in the long term. Other concerns were – constant drain on resources: position on business banking unclear: money could be used for something else of benefit to the village as a PO will be there anyway, regardless of where it is positioned.

Following discussions on whether or not to proceed, for the above reasons, it was finally decided to withdraw the application. However, all agreed that the significant work which had gone in to drawing up the business plan would not be wasted as the building extension and expansion of retail (to possibly include a Farm Shop) would progress. Those involved were thanked for their work in this regard.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Traigh Toilets

David Buick explained the principle of incinerator toilets and suggested that this might be an option for Traigh Toilets – to be considered.

Dog Bins

These are required for the village. Spot checks on the beaches would be helpful as many dog owners are not taking responsibility for animal droppings.

Burns Supper

Martine Wagenaar informed the meeting that the Arisaig Fund Committee is unable to financially support the Burns Supper as it is viewed as a social event. Application for funding had been made on the grounds that an all inclusive event would be socially beneficial and assistance with transport for elderly people would require to be funded. Donations are to be requested from local businesses.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 22 October 2013 (Minute Secretary will not be able to attend)

7 pm

LSIC