

GLENURQUHART RURAL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

MONDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2018

OPEN MEETING

Present: Susan Clark (Chair), Carolyn Wilson (Secretary) and 21 others

A full list of attendees is attached as Appendix A

Apologies: Nicola Vestey (Treasurer), Anne Macdonald, Fiona Urquhart and Christine Hart

1. Previous minutes and matters arising:

No amendments tabled to previous minutes. No matters arising not covered by the agenda.

2. Community Action Plan (CAP):

Susan Clark (SC) reported that it had not proved possible to obtain Lottery funding towards the costs of the CAP. Of the required £14k, we have £6k so far committed.

No further work can be undertaken unless and until we have full funding in place. Any ideas for possible funders to be passed to SC.

3. Glenurquhart Public Hall:

Carolyn Wilson (CW) confirmed that OSCR had approved the Hall Committee's request to allow a Charity Reorganisation, and following this, all the relevant paperwork had been completed to allow the formal transfer of the hall and its assets to GURCA. The effective date of the transfer was 31st July 2018.

OSCR requires a final letter to confirm the transfer has been made, along with specific supporting documentation. CW is finalising this, including the hall's closing accounts, and will ensure the documentation is forwarded to OSCR by mid-September.

The hall's bank accounts have been closed and assets transferred to a new GURCA hall account. 'Restricted' project funds have been transferred to the existing GURCA account, but will be held for use only towards hall refurbishment works.

SC stated that the Hall Committee had now been asked to report back to the GURCA board regarding the optimum 3 - 4 months (and which year) in which refurbishment works should be planned to take place, as the Hall Project sub-committee could now start work on planning and submitting funding applications.

ACTION – CW to ensure all documentation is forwarded to OSCR by mid-Sept

4. Urquhart Castle:

Gordon Findlay (GF) gave an update on the activities, since the previous open meeting, of the Urquhart Castle Working Group. The Group had put together a paper with thoughts on a potential pre-asset transfer arrangement and would be sharing these with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) in advance of a meeting with HES in Edinburgh in September.

The paper focussed on some of the community benefits that HES could facilitate, if it were to agree to work in a form of partnership with our community. If we were able to implement successful partnership working with HES, this may well mean that a full asset transfer may not be pursued.

However, much would depend on the way that HES responded to the Group's proposals,

GF suggested that the Group would probably come back to the community with a report on progress in late 2018 / early 2019, and would, at that point, seek views on how the community would like the Group to proceed on its behalf.

ACTION – GF / Working Group to continue discussions with HES and report back to community in due course.

5. Tourist Information Centre:

GF gave an update on the TIC Working Group progress. The group had met 3 times, and had talked with both Highland Council and the Scottish Land Fund. These meetings had been encouraging, and GF was confident that some form of community takeover of the site could be arranged and in place in the emerging timescales.

There were various options emerging for the TIC, which may be based on either a lease of the building and land, or a purchase. There may also be scope for a staged approach to purchase.

There was also the opportunity to link community involvement in the management of the TIC / car park to partnership working with HES, through a potential park and ride service between the village and the castle.

Margaret Crichton commented that it would be desirable for the community to share some of the benefits from increased tourism, and both the castle and the TIC Working Groups were right to look into this.

6. Loch Ness Homes land transfer:

Gordon Watson (GW) reported on progress with LNH. Heads of terms have been drafted but we are still awaiting comment by our legal advisor. We do need to be clear that we can meet the legal and ongoing costs of any transfer

Time is now pressing, if we are to reach agreement on this matter, and GW hopes to get back to the community with recommendations by the end of the year.

ACTION – GW

7. Market on the Green:

The markets have proved very successful, and so far have raised £820 for GURCA. The final market of the summer will be held on 29th September, and local support will be most welcome, as there may be fewer tourists around by then.

SC thanked Marj Tait and Karen Price for planning and running the markets, and raising very welcome funds for GURCA in the process.

8. COBEN / Local Energy Plan

Soirbheas is holding a 'Green Awareness Day' on 29th September, at Glenurquhart Public Hall (Blairbeg) to showcase the various initiatives and developments arising from the COBEN project and Local Energy Plan, as well as provide information to the community about energy saving / green initiatives.

SC reported that Local Energy Scotland have granted £25k towards further development work on the potential Waste Water energy scheme, which could provide heating for the hall. If it can be shown that the potential is real, then this will be tied in with the hall refurbishment timescales.

9. Cnocan Buraidh

David Fraser has requested £200 towards the project costs for restoration of the Cnocan Buraidh memorial. SC confirmed that the Board of Trustees had agreed to this contribution from GURCA.

Gordon Findlay had volunteered to join the Working Group as GURCA's representative

10. Finance

Nicola Vestey was unable to be at the meeting but had provided a brief summary of accounts to SC, which is attached to minutes on file.

11. AOB

- A GURCA website is being pursued, subject to grant funding being available. We have approached Soirbheas for a grant of £500, and the remaining estimated £100 would from GURCA funds. The aim would be for the website to provide as much helpful community information as possible, with (amongst other things) a full calendar of events, updates on ongoing projects, and reference information on all community groups.
- Fireworks – Anne Macdonald is unable to be at the bonfire this year, but has agreed to ensure everything is arranged in advance for the night. GURCA will need to provide at least 4 stewards on the night, and volunteers are sought. Helen MacLennan, Jan Bell and Neil MacInnes all hoped to be available on the night. Any further volunteers, please contact SC or CW.

- Children's parties. Kerri Postma and Louise Power have agreed to take over the organisation and running of the children's parties. Thanks to them for stepping forward! The Halloween party will be on 27th October and the Christmas parties on 15th December.
- Mhairi Marshall advised the meeting that there would be a Patient Participation Group at the surgery, on 4th October. For further information, please contact the surgery.
- Mhairi Marshall also advised the meeting that a Bingo Night fundraiser for the hall was to be held on 17th November. All welcome.
- Karen Mackenzie asked about the process for saving / taking ownership of the Lewiston red telephone kiosk. Members present from Milton discussed what had been done to take ownership of the box in Milton. It was suggested that Karen would be best discussing this with the Community Council

12. Next Meeting:

The date of the next meeting will be advised to members before the end of November.

Appendix A

GURCA meeting 3rd September 2018: List of attendees

Attendees:

Susan Clark

Carolyn Wilson

Erik Trelfer

Gordon Findlay

Jan Bell

Mhairi Marshall

Gordon Watson

Karen Mackenzie

Elizabeth Owen

Helen MacLennan

Neil MacInnes

George Cruikshank

Leona Joiner

Darren Reid

Dick Beach

Pam Lucas

Margaret Crichton

Catherine Kimmet

Miranda Service

Donna Brady

Kerri Postma

Lynn Kropp

Dominic Thierry