

Nether Lochaber Community Association

Thursday 19th October 2023, 19:30

Minutes

1. **Attendees and apologies** (in alphabetical order)

Attendees:

Clara Barnett

Roger Barnett

Lisa Glaze

Iain Jenner

Gordon Macintyre

Gordon Milne

Brian Pearson

Sharon Pearson

Karl Spierling

Dave Wrigglesworth

Apologies:

None

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Proposed by B Pearson, seconded by I Jenner. The minutes were approved.

3. **Treasurer's statement**

There is £9212.90 in the bank account, but this includes a significant amount of allocated funding. There is approximately £2,500 available as general funding. We will need to be careful with our funds e.g. if we need to pay for legal fees for the water tank, or other pieces of land. We are not in a position to progress these immediately. Legal fees are usually circa £1,500 per transaction.

4. **Inchree Project**

The project officer (Lucy Cooke) said that the last couple of weeks have been productive. She has been working with C Barnett on potential funding applications. There are other ideas that won't bring in big amounts of money but will be good for communications in the local and wider areas. There has been no formal introduction for the Project Officer on social media as yet as we would like to stay quiet until we have a big bit of news. However, we are preparing in background. Lucy is collecting images of the area so please send her any nice images.

I Jenner would like to make a big splash when the legal disposition is finalized. The solicitor says this will happen next week, and we are simply waiting to hear from Harper MacLeod, the solicitor for FLS. We should have a picture with an FLS handshake outside barn, and then we can send out a press release. Lucy has already drafted something that we can add to, and we aim to have that finished at the beginning of next week. Once the disposition is finalized, then we will own the barn. Lucy will then begin the social media campaign.

When requesting funding from the SLF, everything has to go through Clara. Kate Barnwell at SLF asked if we are going to spend all the funding, or if we wish to repurpose funding. Legal and payroll fees are to be deducted from Sharon's calculation (Inspiring Scotland funding). Any leftover funds can be used for interpretation work on fencing, QR code, etc.

There was a suggestion to ask local businesses to sponsor the signage for fencing, but we need to start by telling people what the barn is about before embarking on any advertising as we want people to engage with the barn project. And the QR code is important for fundraising.

Lucy said some signs of a certain size need planning permission. Interpretation work can be passed by the Community Council. There may be a time limit. However, if it's on a temporary fence there may be a bit more leeway. It would be good to involve the school as they gave us a letter of support.

5. **Village Hall**

D Wigglesworth updated everyone on the most recent Village Hall meeting. There were only three committee members in attendance. Dave suggested that they should work with and consult the Community Association as there could be common ground to cover two important projects. However, the Village Hall committee have decided to progress with creating their own SCIO. He encouraged them to keep the option open to talk and said we could be of benefit to each other. He reported that some felt there is not enough communication from the CA on our activities. We'd like to improve the flow of information. L Glaze has acted as a liaison person and has communicated that the CA do not want to replace the Village Hall with the Barn.

All agreed to consider better ways to communicate. All are welcome to Village Hall meetings.

6. **Tubs/Garden Areas**

S Pearson will check the apple tree pot to see if it is still obstructing the road sign at the top of Old Ferry Road.

7. **Creag Mhor**

The wall group didn't convene, as we will make this the next activity day. We still need to get of the cuttings at the cemetery.

8. **Picnic Site**

We need to monitor the bin at the site throughout the year.

S Pearson will check the bin on Thursdays.

9. **Activity Day**

As above, will need 4-6 experienced people.

10. **500 Club Draw**

To follow. Winning numbers will be published on Facebook.

11. **Correspondence**

A letter from BEAR re the tub at the top of Old Ferry Road obstructing signage.

12. **AOB**

Water Tank. If we take this on, we need to raise funds for the legal fees. This needs to be presented as a project. The best option would be to try and involve parents and the school. It is a nature interpretation site in safe walking distance of the school. It needs another subcommittee to work on it. C Barnett warned about committing to paying legal fees before

funding has been raised. We can get a quote, but we cannot commit to payment. There was a discussion as the committee had agreed to buy this prior to the pandemic. We need to identify funders for example the Natural History Society in Lochaber. A lot of research needs to be done before approaching funders. We could ask people not involved in the committee to take this on as everyone is already stretched. Wider community involvement is essential. We would need funding for legal fees, and perhaps some clearance work (most could be done as an activity day - some work needs done on the path. It has eroded in some places –and we would need to make it safe). B Pearson agreed to send on funding potential opportunities, D Wrigglesworth will take photographs, and G Macintyre will get a quote for legal fees.

Ceilidh: HF holidays: We should check if we can book out their dance hall? It has a bar, a good size hall with a sprung dance floor, and plenty of side rooms to branch out. I Jenner is happy to ask them.

BB Pearson asked who owns the land at the top of old ferry road. It would be great to create a community area. This idea has been looked into it before when the group were initially thinking about forming the CA. Transport Scotland owns it and is no use to them. It only came into existence because of the ramp onto bridge. 50 years ago, it didn't exist. Scottish water might have an interest. I Jenner warned against underestimating the amount of work involved. Could we look after it without owning it? We don't own picnic site, but have an agreement with common grazing.

I Jenner has purchased gardening tools and is waiting on some coming next week.

QR code for fundraising: We need to get one at the picnic site and at Creag Mhor.

13. **Date of next meeting**

Thursday 16th November 2023 7:30 on Zoom. The church hall is not available. K Spierling will check if Roam West is available.