

KINLOCHBERVIE COMMUNITY COMPANY

NOTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 30 JUNE

PRESENT: Graham Wild, Alun Owen, John Mann, Christine Mackenzie, David Forbes (Directors)

MEMBERS OF

PUBLIC PRESENT: Stuart McHugh, Pat Cooper, Rex Onions, Sheila Onions, Jasmine, Kirsty Holland, Joan Mackay, Sylvia Mackay, Michael Otter, Murdo MacPherson, Ann Mackay, Denise Mackay, John Wood

APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Jenny Corbett, Jamie Dawson, James MacDonald, Jane Stevenson and Janice McLeod.

Graham Wild welcomed all attendees and opened the meeting. He explained that this was called in response to a meeting facilitated by North West Training that brought together a variety of local groups with a common interest in community projects. The aims of that meeting, through HIE and the Community, was to oversee the employment of a Development Officer funded by HIE. The Community Company will undertake the appointment of the Officer and his or her remit would be to advise on the best ways to achieve successful and sustainable projects undertaken by community groups.

Graham then asked Sylvia the situation thus far; she stated that prior to the appointment of the Development Officer, the Community Council would need to seek funding to update the Kinlochbervie Development plan. This would then support the application for funding from HIE for this post. Forming part of this application is the identification of projects within the KLB local plan and this will be looked at and condensed and North West Training, with funding from Sutherland Partnership, will administer its production and distribution to the community for comment. The deadline for this is the 2nd week in August. If we are successful in obtaining funding for a Development Officer for Kinlochbervie, It is anticipated that a person would be in post by November and at least one project would need to be completed within the year.

Should the application be successful the five interim directors of the Community Company agreed they would back it and take on board administering a sub group. This followed John Mann's question as to any reason why we should not back it.

Michael Otter voiced concern over the previous post of a consultant and it was confirmed that although the post holder would be employed by the Community Company they would be overseen and monitored by HIE. Michael also asked who would decide on the appointment. Sylvia clarified that HIE would help over selection with the input of the Community Company and others. Graham Wild asked Alun Owen if he was happy to supervise the payroll aspect of the post to which he agreed.

It should be noted that prior to the above a letter from the Community Council had been sent to HIE requesting their comments on why KLB had been omitted as an area for a Development Officer. A response is awaited.

It is understood that the post would be full time, initially for one year, with an option to apply for funding for a further two years. A question was raised as to the job specification, and it was agreed that applicants would need to show ability and a proven record on obtaining funding for identified projects in a rural area such as KLB. To succeed, the post holder would need the full backing of the community. John Wood asked if we should headhunt and it was confirmed that all avenues for advertising the post would be explored.

It is important that once the person is in post the project(s) would need to have been identified to enable the officer to commence work immediately on day one.

Alun commented that we should approach this one step at a time focusing on securing funding first.

Michael Otter raised the question as to why we had 'interim' directors. Graham Wild's response was that the company was dormant. However, it was felt that should our application be successful then an EGM would be held to appoint formal directors.

David Forbes thanked Graham for setting up the company and gave his reasons for becoming an interim director. He said if it were felt appropriate he would be willing to resign to make way for younger person. The future of KLB relies on its younger generation and they should be involved and represented in forthcoming projects. Michael Otter stated that David should remain on the Board. David also said he was encouraged by the turnout at the meeting.

Christine Mackenzie emphasised the need to push through the community consultation aspect of the application and suggested a 'To Do' list. Sylvia confirmed that the application would be presented at the Community Council meeting next Tuesday and the existing local plan is on computer ready for NWT.

Michael Otter suggested that as many members of the public attend Tuesday's meeting and it was agreed that mention would be made on the KLB website.

Rex Onions suggested that following the discussion of involving the younger element of the community, would it not be a good idea for a representative to visit the school to make them aware of this initiative. Graham said he felt the school was now more aware and it was the Community Council's aim to co-opt a person to represent youngsters at committee meetings. Christine said that we could take the results of the consultation along to the school once they return from their summer break to get their views. David thought this a good idea.

The meeting ended at 7.50 pm.