

STROMNESS COMMUNITY BUSINESS FORUM

30th January 2008

7.30pm @ CESS

Present: M Craigie, R Gauld, G Kirkpatrick, M Swanney, M Davidson, J Brown

Apologies: J Schofield, B Muir, I Richardson, S Crichton, K Scott, N Brass, G Davies, M Frier (OIC),

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the last meeting on 31st October, were read and adopted (Prop: M Swanney, Sec: G Kirkpatrick).

Matters Arising

Pierhead Planning Update

M Davidson gave update on developments, none really since last STCP meeting, and next meeting is due next week. MD expressed concern at lack of visibility of the OIC Project Manager in Stromness, who had not been seen since last but one STCP meeting.

Costs to Date:

Payment from OIC for work carried out to date on Design Brief (£10,000) had been received with some sub-contract invoices for work also now paid. MD suggested we meet with GD on his return to sort out any remaining costs.

Heritage Lottery Funding:

Though not yet 100% approved, they had indication of £1.44 M for HLF under their "Townscape Heritage Fund" with 10 year 'sustainability plan'.

Fund would be split into:

1. Acquisition of dormant properties
2. Training
3. Shop front upgrades (50-80% grant), which would tie in with 60 year anniversary of Shopping Week.

Renewables Project Update

Georgette Herd was now close to submitting the final Community "Right to Buy" on the land and JB gave an update on the remaining issues.

Membership forms were still coming in steadily but it was suggested we should have a "member's meeting" and membership drive in mid Feb.

SCDT had agreed as result of late discussions with Meranblo developers to withdraw their objection prior to the public hearing, since we were not specifically objecting to their plans, only their lack of "Community Benefit" and last minute discussion and written Agreement had resolved that issue.

Membership

New membership forms were issued back in March, with only 34 subs so far received and £14,484.83 in bank A/C, MC suggested lack of enthusiasm was mainly due to lack of follow up with individuals by committee members.

MC proposed that since we were reasonably sound financially we try harder to sell new Street Map to 2008 membership and MC suggested members who did not pay for 2007 should be invoiced with 2008 subs.

i.e. We could perhaps issue a double invoice to those who had not paid this year and wanted to remain on street map next year ?

EFSA Open Boat Championships 2009

KS agreed to help establish a working group to set up stalls, with themed exhibition (Shoal+ Sheaf), arts & crafts, etc.

MC had met with EFSA coordinator in Sept and she had indicated they expect 130-150 anglers (- July 2009). Most of the 2003 arrangements were to be same, but they again stressed that the reason for past success was based on SCBF's enthusiastic participation and support!

Swimming Pool use

Further to previous discussion MC had received letter from Clair Cahill @ Health Centre requesting financial support for their hourly pool session and he felt there was some synergy with SCBF need and Northlink's lunchtime request for pool access. SCBF could perhaps use some funds to kick start the lunchtime session/s. (MC to progress discussions)

Scottish Islands Federation

MC gave summary of dates and times to date for SIF Conference in Stromness over Easter holidays (8-10 April).

OIC have indicated sponsorship of opening dinner and MC proposed that SCBF and SCDT should cover costs for closing dinner on the Thurs (10th April)

It was stressed that we should keep most of the support services and catering etc to the SCBF members if at all possible.

Stromness Bonanza and longer term Stromness Shopping Card

KS agreed to progress discussions on establishing a long term Shopping Benefit card system such as they have in Lerwick.

41 businesses were being approached, with fee of between 1.5 -2.5 p in the £ which covers operating cost of the scheme, software, hardware, etc.

This report had been submitted to MC last week, and MC also attended the retail survey presentation in KOI last week.

It was suggested by MD that we get co-op manager and other retailers to an Open Discussion at AGM

Date of AGM.

It was agreed to hold AGM in Royal Hotel on Wed27th Feb

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.