

RAASAY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes

Thursday 26th August at 7:30 pm
Online - zoom

Present:

Iain Hector Ross (IHR),
Alasdair Macinnes (AM),
Elizabeth Macleod - LDO (EM)

Darryl Simpson (DS),
Donnie Oliphant (DO),

Trevor Stratford (TS),
Artemis Pana (AP),

Apologies –

David Westgarth (DW),

Calum Gillies (CG),

Adoption of Minutes –

Adopting the minutes

- 29th July 2021 approved by IHR and AP

Amendments to previous minutes –

/

Matters Arising –

/

Finance –

Our year end 2020 accounts ready to be submitted and then we will be ready to arrange our AGM.

Our debts to Donald Rankin now cleared and, due to the requirement that our accounts be audited, we will be looking to change accountant next year.

Wood fuel is looking healthy. We have purchased the remaining wood at the pit, but we await the rental payment from F&LS.

There is still >£500,000 of hydro monies in the RDT account – ACTION – EM to arrange transfer

We need to submit an LDO claim into HIE this month.

Finance Manager Contract –

We are receiving consultancy support to review the financial systems of RDT and RCR and this will also cover support in preparing a brief to tender for a new accountant. Fees are being covered by HIE with any LDO underspend contributing if necessary. The consultants providing the support are SKS Scotland, who worked with us previously, and we had a very positive meeting last Friday. EM is meeting with the consultants again on 27/08/21.

Hydro Scheme –

Ground works and pipe welding are continuing at pace!! Pipe welding should be complete this week.

Procurement – ongoing with most items now on Raasay

Leases and consents – no further update

VAT – RCR now have VAT registration number and are reclaiming VAT monthly

RCR are arranging an event to celebrate on the 31st August – Ian Blackford, Jim Smith (CEO of SSE Renewables), Catriona Knott (CARES) have confirmed. The plan is

- Delegates are getting the 3pm ferry from Sconser
- We have asked community members to join us at the mine buildings at 3:30
- Our contractor and directors will talk about the work being undertaken, the support we have received, and the long term benefits
- We would then ask delegates to say a few words
- We would then have time for photographs and to meet and speak with the community
- Delegates return to Skye on the next available ferry – we will aim for the 5pm ferry

Stage 1 Application to the Crown Estate Community Capacity Building fund has been submitted – this is to engage with an external agency to help us set up the community benefit fund ensuring that the community has a say in the funds aims/objectives and how the fund will be administered. We should hear in September if we can progress to the next round of the application process.

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Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Forestry –

We have purchased the remaining wood stored in the pit

We have sent an invoice for the remaining months of the storage agreement and await payment

Pontoon and Ferry Terminal building –

Crown Estate Lease negotiations are ongoing, we have submitted a stage 1 request for lease terms at less than market value and we are awaiting a response – still ongoing, EM spoke with CES on 26/08/21, but it is no further along.

EM has contacted Alan Webster and Fiona Cameron at the Council and provided updated phased costs and grant income for the project. We have now finally received the RCGF and HCCF award letters – the HCCF award letter has been signed and returned the RCGF award letter is with Twin Deer Law and the Councils lawyer.

EM has spoken with Jennifer at HIE re potential HIE match for the pontoon project and an application was submitted. They have requested updated costs and to see the HCCF and RCGF award letters before finalising the funding. EM has a meeting with HCCF contact on 6th September to go over the award letter.

Wallace Stone have been appointed as project managers and we had our first meeting. It was agreed that the first action was to arrange a user meeting to help WS finalise the tender package – this has been arranged for the 2nd September at 7:30 pm via zoom.

The Skye and Raasay councillors are meeting on the 31st August to decide on the outcome of the CATS application for the ferry terminal building. It is very likely that they will not approve a sale to RDT but will approve to transfer management for a peppercorn lease – 99 years at £1 per year. It was agreed via email that this would be agreeable although we would need to see the terms of the lease and the premises would need to be in working order with all services checked prior to any lease being signed – it was noted that the ladies toilets are blocked and have not been repaired.

Housing –

Site visit arranged for the morning of the 31st August

We have submitted the QHT application and they will assess it once we have planning approved – still ongoing

We are still awaiting the planning decision – flooding trees and roads all issues that are being resolved by JMQ and Catoe/Brown. EM has been asked to look into the funding to cover the costs of landscaping/tree planting and it has been suggested we look into adding sheds – ongoing, awaiting details from Catoe/Brown.

Building warrant has been submitted.

Applications to SSE and Scottish Water underway.

Progress on the legal aspects of the project has been slower than anticipated. This includes the sale of plots, preparing the deed of conditions, Deed of Servitude between ourselves and the Dept' of Agriculture etc.

Website –

Update ongoing. A sub-group meeting is to be arranged.

Visit Scotland application unsuccessful

Pit–

SSE are looking at siting the new transformer behind the existing one on the slightly higher ground – Chris from Bluenergy is going to contact DO or TS one Saturday morning at the Pit to discuss more.

It was suggested we sell the generator as it is not being used and it is unlikely to be used – agreed and a suggested asking price of £500 was proposed. ACTION – EM to post on Raasay Residents Facebook page.

Funding for new equipment – ongoing. ACTION – DO to send EM details of the new equipment required.

RAASAY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Pathways –

No update

AOCB –

- Interest in utilising the boathouse as a pop-up shop for local arts and crafts – it was agreed in principle that this was a good idea as footfall from visitors tends not to go as far as Inverarish and the pop-up shop would support our creative residents business development. Concern was raised regarding road safety and a risk assessment would be required before we could take forward any proposal from individuals or collectives looking to use the boathouse.
- Phone kiosks –we are required to maintain the phone boxes and they are in need of some TLC. It was agreed that now the benches have been painted by the community council and volunteers we should try and arrange a painting party to undertake the work on the phone boxes. We have the paint, and we are to look at the instructions and prepare a list of tasks before requesting volunteers.
- Online availability of minutes – RDT minutes are available on the Raasay.com website but we are a few months behind. It was agreed that we would upload all approved minutes and try an approval by email system to speed up the process of making our minutes available to the community.

DONM: 16th September 2021 at 7:30 via zoom