

## USCA Committee Meeting Draft Minutes

These are the draft minutes from the committee meeting on the 1st December. These minutes have to be considered as draft minutes until they are approved at the next committee meeting on 16th December.

**Present:** Carolyne Charrington, Beccy Roth, Gary Cutlack, Iain Thomson, Mike Hogan, David Clowes.

**1. Apologies:** Jim Halbert. **Resignation:** Helen Mackay & Maureen Merrit

**1a. Urgent Business:** Co-option of replacement committee member(s)  
CC proposed Lucy Mackenzie, IT seconded. Committee unanimously approved.  
LM joined the meeting.

**2. Minutes of previous meeting:** Proposed BR, seconded IT, approved unanimously.

### **3. Matters Arising:**

Helen's resignation. All committee members appreciated the outstanding leadership, effort and commitment Helen has given. USCA would not have been where it is without her and we hope that she will be able to return some time in the future.

MM resignation: The committee thanked Maureen for all her work and her excellent baking and hoped she would be able to become more involved again.

**Committee agreed** that CC become Convenor and the Vice Convenor post to remain vacant until AGM.

Offer from HIE of a Local Development Officer at least part-time and depending on LEADER funding (announced mid December) might be full-time. MICT is fully in support and willing to undertake the 'housekeeping' in relation to recruitment and payroll etc. Conditions and limitations explored and the **Committee unanimously accepted the offer.**

### **Steering Group Report**

**Planners' Meeting Update** - Planners were very flexible and helpful in approach when visiting. USCA was not asked about specific zoning for different areas. Planners seemed keen on the idea of flexible deals between Landowners/USCA. MH to liaise with Planners.

**Innovation Fund Update** - Description of current situation and need to clarify our involvement in the Achleck project. We realise the benefits of being involved in a partnership. Committee agreed the necessity for the plans to be shared with the Community as soon as practical after they are completed. CC to speak to Derek Logie

**Scotland Island's Funding Update** - Elaine Crane has kindly taken on a lot of the paperwork. IT to become main contact with EC.

**Community Gatherings** - BR & LM to organise whilst taking on board limitations of funding. GC agreed to explore possibilities of holding film evenings, particularly licensing regulations.

**Jim Mather meeting** - Title: "USCA - The Way Ahead" (for a dispersed rural community). EC has an outline program and is drawing up a provisional

invitation. Draft programme outlined by CC and **approved by committee**. **All agreed** that it would be ideal if the School could be the venue and a landowner was to be approached for lunch venue. **CC to action**  
**Moray Finch Training Evening** to take place in New Year.

**SOS Update** - There is a difficulty for the committee with the time-scale for this given all the other matters in hand. **CC & IT** to organise meeting to see if the interested parties still want to take this forward.

#### **4. Finance:**

Update on finances.

#### **5. Community issues:**

Communication with community vital. It was agreed that draft Minutes of the committee meeting could be made publicly available. **MH to action**.

Dates for new community gathering and dates and topics for that and at least the next gathering to be agreed ASAP. **LM & BR to action**.

**Committee agreed** that there should be a Newsletter produced and ready for distribution by Monday 12th December and the aim would be to have a monthly newsletter thereafter. **MH to layout and print**.

**LM to take on membership secretary role**.

**MH to pass on all relevant information and also provide 50 membership forms**.

#### **6. Housing Issues: None not already dealt with elsewhere.**

#### **7. Publicity Issues:**

**Websites** - To be updated and to have draft minutes available on main site.

**MH & GC to action**.

#### **8. School Issues:**

Update on Commission of Rural Education. Request for all to respond to the consultation.

#### **9. Any other business:**

Hogmanay Party to be organised as part of Community Gatherings - **CC & IT & BR to action**.

#### **10. Date of next meeting: Friday 16th December 7:00 pm**