

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Helmsdale and District Development Trust
held on the 27th May 2015
in the Community Centre

PRESENT:	APOLOGIES
Ruth Whittaker (Chairman) Rona Ellis Karen Sutherland (Treasurer) Lucy Fraser Valery George (Secretary) Barbara Jappy Paul Harrington (LDO) Jean Sargent	Ronald Sutherland
IN ATTENDANCE:	
Welcome & Apologies: The Chairman welcomed everyone and read out the apology	ACTION
APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Proposed by Jean Sargent and Seconded by Karen Sutherland	
Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes Creative Place Awards – Seating <i>ongoing</i> Jean Sargent updated the Board by saying that this was still ongoing and were still awaiting the costs and she would make some enquiries as to progress. Paul Harrington said that this needed to be started as soon as possible, as the grant funding from HDDT had been in place since October 2014.	Jean Sargent
FINANCE KS gave out a copy of the bank statement and asked if there were any questions. She continued by saying that the National Insurance (£2k) that was waived under the recent Government scheme was sitting in the budget under burdens, she had secured authorisation from Hughie Donaldson (HIE) to transfer the amount to 'Office Costs' to cover the LDO Office rent. She added that it was hoped that we could do the same for next year.	
COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS <i>Helmsdale.org website ongoing</i> With regard to the ongoing difficulties in contacting the domain name account holder it was suggested that the proposed graduate (that will be appointed in August / September time) could undertake setting up a new website. This was opposed as setting up a website was very complex and the existing website contained valuable links and archive material for the Helmsdale community. It was agreed that KS would approach a family member to establish contact.	KS
KITCHEN GARDEN <i>update</i> Rona Ellis said that we had been awarded a grant from the Gordonbush Strategic Grant, the acceptance form had been returned and that a cheque would be issued shortly. Paul Harrington said he had contacted the Trust Solicitors, formally, with a copy of the Acceptance of award letter. He continued by saying that the confirmation of funds and the offer to purchase was now with the Lawley family solicitors and were now awaiting the response.	

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LDO Report

HOUSING

- Planters, to provide plants etc and maintain for 1st year £60, subsequent years £50 – by LHFFS.

FILLING STATION

- DT meeting went well, several areas discussed to take forward to P/O meeting and also meeting with Planning Department. Very positive meeting with P/O earlier today, DT meeting next week.
- Layouts for the new building have been produced, and these will be confirmed with the steering group who will be operating the site.
- We have now received back the full reports from the tank conditions and also the pollutant/contaminate investigations. Regarding the lab tests, these have proved there is little if any hydrocarbons present.
- This provides us with the necessary information to start the negotiating process with the current owner.
- I have arranged for the site to be re-valued, and the Valuer has a copy of both reports as background. Once received, we will use this to negotiate the purchase price.
- I have been in touch with both Mike Stephenson and Graham Phillips, and provided a copy of both reports for consideration of the business plan and 2nd stage application.
- We should be ready to start the update of the community consultation in the coming weeks.
- Need to purchase the 'Blue Book' at a cost of £140.

BROADBAND

- Both the open day and the survey went very well, with approx 22 persons attending
- Key relay points for transmitting the radio signal have been identified, and the relevant landowners contacted, to seek permissions to site a relay mast.
- Coupled with this, an alternative is also being sought as to the current owners of any existing relay masts, to clarify rental costs (by Farrpoint Atkins)
- Link budgets have been carried out between Ben a Chielt (possible fibre connection from Vodafone, but may be expensive) & Meall a Bhealaich (Forsinard).
- Work on the RF model is underway in relation to the backhaul, and a wireless access connection for coverage.
- Radio mast planning work/scoping is taking place

GORDONBUSH

- The Gordonbush Business Meeting took place on Wednesday 13th April in Rogart.
- All 3 strategic applications were supported in full – Games Committee, HDCA and HDDT, to the tune of £57,000.
- The Apprenticeship Scheme has been launched, with a closing date of Monday 22nd June.

