

Minutes of R.A.G.S Meeting held at Highwater Cottage on the 2nd of December 2008 at 7.30pm.

Present.

Charlotte Mellis Chair.
Ruth Hawke Secretary.
Jessie McQuarie
Cliff Moisey
Norma Dowling
Ted Dowling
Lorna McIntyre
Caroline Woods
James Hilder
Mike Hogan

Apologies: Eve Eckstein and Janet Nelson

Charlotte welcomed everyone and presented John Russell's report for discussion. Everyone agreed that it was a very comprehensive and encouraging report. We discussed how best to get it out to the relevant people and in what order this should be done. We decided to present it to our local Councillors initially, and to ask to photograph the hand over. After which we will send it to Duncan McIntyre and all the Oban Councillors, cc copies to Stewart Turner in Lochgilphead and Peter Ward, the project leader in Oban and also to Linda Cameron Chair of the Mull Community Council (MCC) and Keep Mull Moving. Cliff suggested that we ask John if he could draw up a map which would show the alternative proposals indicated in his report, as we all agreed that pictures get the message across quicker than words – this could also be published on the website. We also thought we should ask John Russell what letters we should put after his name. Should it be Dr John Russell of Heriott Watt University or John Russell BSc, MA Planning.?

An article from the Oban Times was discussed. It stated that costs of £7000 would be needed for preparatory work - James thought this would be for legal work, and £220,000 for land plans and to buy land. Both costs were estimates only. We must find out what this means. Charlotte will write to Duncan McIntyre to this end and also ask for a time scale. Because of the 130 objections received when the application for planning appeared in the Oban Times in on 29th July 2006, the possibility exists for a public enquiry. However, when the Council resubmit their planning application, everyone will need to object again including the original objectors who may need to be reminded of this.

The secretary reported of a prospective buyer for Highwater Cottage ringing the Council to find out what the state of play on the road was and being told that the application hadn't gone in again yet but that the causeway road was "unlikely" to be built. The road would "more than likely" be started further along the bay. He thought they would use the existing road and upgrade it instead. Though it's not official, it still sounds encouraging.

The next item on the agenda was to vote two more officers onto the committee. David Jones had resigned from the position of Vice Chair. Cliff Moisey was welcomed to the post and was nominated by Jessie and seconded by Ted. Also welcomed was Michael Hogan who was nominated by Norma and seconded by Caroline for the post of Treasurer. It was generally accepted that we now have a strong and capable committee. Charlotte and Mike will go to the bank and arrange for joint signing rights for all cheques. On 26th November 2008 the bank account for RAGS shows £540.37 after paying Mike for designing and printing the new brochures and creating our new the website, both of which were praised. A further £20 contribution was brought in by Jessie. Charlotte and Mike will now audit the books and submit them at the A.G.M. James suggested that we put the constitution on the website.

Any Other Business.

Cliff asked where the £15 million was coming from for the road development. James said they would have to apply for EU money as Hi Trans has no extra money. MCC and Keep Mull Moving are still fighting to keep Mull at the top of the list for funding. No application can be made for EU funding until planning permission has been granted. This is thought to be some way off but as mentioned before, we will write to the Council and ask for clarification on these matters.

Charlotte gave James 9 more membership forms to put on the list - we have over 800 members.

Charlotte reported that the Pay Pal problems have been sorted out and it is now working from the website. They take a percentage from the donations but it is easier for people to donate this way.

Next time we send out a mail shot we can mention the Pay Pal option. The account needs £50 in it before any can be withdrawn without incurring any costs. At this time, it has just under £30.00 in it.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday the 17th of March 2009 at Highwater at 7.30pm and we will list it as the A.G.M. and post on the website, Posters and in both local papers.

The meeting ended at 8.45.