

MANOR/CASTLE WARDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

TUESDAY 21st November 2017

GRIANAN Centre at 7:30pm

1. Present

Roddy Nicolson(Chair) Eric Anderson (Vice Chair), Dolene Smith (Secretary), Gordon Murray (Councillor)

In Attendance: Phemie Ferguson, M.Macleod, Katie M Maciver, Susie Morrison, M.G Macleod, C Macleod, Anne Macleod, Donnie Macleod, Marion Mackenzie, Norrie Mackenzie.

Apologies: Chris Kelso, G Saunders, Chrissie Fraser

2. Welcome: The Chair welcomed all present.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings: Gordon proposed the minutes and Eric approved.

4. Matters Arising

Newsletter

Roddy discussed the Manor Newsletter with the group. Cllr Gordon Murray included an article about ‘goody shops’ courtesy of Stornoway Historical Magazine. It will make a lot of folk reminisce.

The Newsletter is uploaded onto the Manor Facebook Page.

Gordon also highlighted the proposed Santa Run taking place in Bain Square, Manor Drive, Assaye Place and Macgregor Park.

Assaye Place

The prospect of double yellow lines between Macaulay Road and Assaye Place will be analysed further. The data taken recently will be formulated and gathered specifically for a one way system to be put in place.

Christmas Lights on Bain Square

There has been a request to put this in place. A representative from the Technical Services Department will be in contact very soon.

5. Speaker - Iain Maciver, Stornoway Trust

Mr Maciver gave an informative talk on how the Stornoway Trust acquires funding and the challenges the Trust faces with the maintenance of the Castle Grounds. The Factor explained how Arnish was an important asset because it belongs to the community, we get the revenue which then impacts on the Trust. Mr Maciver emphasised he wants to help groups such as the Manor/Castle Association. Mr Maciver explained the hard work and planning that goes into large funding applications which have to meet specific criteria. Mr Maciver gave an example of the application before the Millennium which had combined support from the Millennium Trust and the Forestry Project. This was on a large scale receiving £1.5million to provide for the Woodlands Centre Cafe, equipment and a workshop. The Castle Grounds is an asset on the edge of the town which needs nourished, fed and grants to take care of the agricultural side.

Looking forward to more projects specific to the Castle Grounds there is funding eligible to the North of Scotland for woodlands in and around a town.

The Trust continues to make the best of grants available to them because it is needed due to the varied work to be still carried out.

Now the priorities are converting the Boatmans House to make it workable, enhancing the sea wall and the Porters Lodge.

To seek funding from Historic Scotland there are set rules to adhere to before appropriate funding can be given. The Trust has an aim of replanting or restoring what was within the Castle Grounds to how the Grounds were originally designed.

For certain projects the Trust were able to work through the Councils procurement policy and liase with Historic Scotland and also Lottery

Another subject is health and safety which Mr Maciver had to mention due to having to act on complaints. The provision for the bike trail was accelerated by the fact walkers did now want to be bothered by cyclists. One member from the meeting queried why such a steep speedbump was put in place before Cuddy Point, Mr Maciver responded by highlighting there had been an ongoing issue of speeding which had to be addressed. In time there will be proper barriers in place for wheelchair access.

Another stream of funding the Trust recently qualified for was the Management Grant which would be beneficial for day to day requirements.

6. Presentation – Muriel Ann Macleod, Deeds Not Words

Ms Macleod gave a fascinating presentation on the role of Hebridean women in the First World War. This is a current project which has been researched for the last two and a half years. Booklets that were very well presented were shown around the group.

Despite the image of Hebridean women being stay at home types these women had a pro active role. These women ended up being the main breadwinners and put in the work. A lot of women on the Island were requesting for their rights to be taken seriously. One woman was part of the Suffrage Movement. There were certain rules in this era which would have incited women to take action. An example of this was a rule stating women over 30 who were living on a croft would be eligible to vote.

It is being transformed into a play which is being scheduled to be shown at various locations in the Western Isles. It will be shown at the local HighSchool to help engage the interests of and inform about local history to the young folk.

7. Manor Trip

It was decided for the backpacking to include a day at the end of January as well as the date booked for December. There has been more research been done on securing the best deal for accommodation and also for travelling by bus. By December it will be easier to get a quote when finances are updated again. Another opportunity was given for anyone in the group to put their name down for the raffle and/or the backpacking rota. During the discussion it was agreed to do another hamper in January.

8. A.O.C.B.

Capital Budget Decision

At the start of December the Capital Budget Decision will take place in the Council. Our group is keen to push for the School Estate for Stornoway Primary. Cllr Gordon Murray will de-brief at the next meeting.

9. Update on finances

The figure still stands at £3358.16

10. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 19th December at 7:30pm.