

MINUTES

MANOR & CASTLE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Tuesday 13 October 2020
WhatsApp at 6.30pm

Present:

Eric Anderson (chair), Katie Laing (secretary), Dolene Anne Smith (treasurer)

In attendance:

Gordon Murray

Meetings during the pandemic:

Gordon suggested we try to host a Manor and Castle Community Association meeting online, to touch base with everyone and combat the isolation effects of the pandemic. Gordon agreed to host the meeting and everyone agreed the link should be private. Date of the wider online meeting to be decided at a later date.

Crown Estates funding:

Eric discussed Manor and Castle's position in terms of potentially accessing money from the Crown Estates fund. The aspirations for new play equipment at Columbia Place were mentioned and the fact we have £4,000 in our account for this, which could lever in more money. Gordon said it was desirable to look for tangible outcomes from the fund. Eric reported discussions with Sharon Reid about appointing a community development worker, to be shared with the Cearns, who already have a bank account and would be responsible for paying the community worker. Eric stressed that a community worker would be able to fill in forms applying for the Crown Estates money for projects, which would save a lot of work that would otherwise have to be done by voluntary groups.

Eric stressed the deadline for Crown Estate applications was only 6 weeks away.

As well as the appointment of a community worker, which everybody agreed was a good idea, the meeting also discussed potential projects for Crown Estates money. One of the main ones was a development of a polycrub / polytunnel / allotments on available land, with the area behind Macleod Road and Grianan earmarked.

Gordon agreed to investigate whether the land would be available and Katie agreed to speak to Susanne Ervida (due to her expertise with the Lewis and Harris Horticultural Producers) for suggestions about best use and to draw up a priced wish list, to inform a funding application. Katie also offered to speak with Mossend Residents gardeners for ideas.

Eric also voiced the aspiration for funding for a shed or cabin in that same area to serve as a social gathering place.

Gordon and Eric will be meeting with Sharon Reid on 3 November to finalise what funding applications will be made on behalf of Manor and Castle.

The meeting agreed to progress three ideas for applications: funding for a community worker to be shared with the Cearns; the play park at Columbia Place; a polycrub / poly-tunnel / allotment and office space.

Until a community worker is appointed, Sharon Reid will make our applications.

Stornoway Primary:

Concern was expressed about the continuing state of poor repair at Stornoway Primary and Katie questioned whether Crown Estates money could be accessed for this. Gordon stressed this was the responsibility of the Comhairle and recommended getting together with other community groups – eg. Stornoway and Sandwick Community Councils and Stornoway Primary Parent Council – and having an open public meeting on the issue, with a view to creating pressure ahead of the Comhairle's budget meetings in February.

Date of next meeting:

To be arranged.