**The Road To The Isles Facilities Group**

**Notes of the Strategy Meeting held at**

**7.00pm on Tuesday 23 April at**

**Mallaig and Morar Community Centre**

**Present**

Stuart Griffin (Chair) Jacqueline Mcdonell (Vice Chair) Nick Murray (Treasurer) and Dave Newnham (Secretary). Niki Robertson and Catherine Young joined the meeting virtually via Microsoft Teams.

**Apologies**

Eilidh Henderson and Iain MacNiven (unable to connect virtually)

**Finance**

Nick had circulated the Annual Report and Financial Statement prior to the meeting. Other than a few minor alterations, they were agreed and signed off. This will allow us to go ahead with our Annual General Meeting on 11 June 2024 prior to the next meeting of Trustees.

Later on in the meeting we discussed the need to ensure we have a robust minimum reserve policy to ensure the basic running costs of projects are covered. To discuss further at June’s meeting

**RIFG Objectives**

The group re-visited its original objectives laid out in its constitution. It was agreed that they remained relevant and required no amendment at this time.

**Decision Making**

It was agreed that strategic decisions could only be made at a regular or extra-ordinary meeting of the Trustees. This is to include any decisions about future applications for funding in excess of £5k.

However, it was agreed that the majority of operational decisions have by necessity to be made on a day to day basis to ensure the facilities we manage are kept open and operational.

**Procurement**

A framework for procurement was discussed and Dave agreed to draft a policy based on that discussion prior to June’s meeting of the Trustees.

**Communication**

It was agreed that the primary method of communication between the Trustees would be by e-mail and face to face meetings and that the WhatsApp group would only be used to address short term operational issues that did not immediately need the involvement of the Trustees.

Externally we agreed that we would continue to inform the wider community about the work of the group through the Facebook group and regulalry updating our Go Fund Me page. A discussion took place about the creation of a website that would give people access to the notes of our meetings, our policies and provide updates on our work. Jacqueline agreed to set something up prior to the next meeting but stressed that she didn’t have the capacity to be able to maintain it on a long term basis. We also agreed to approach the Editor of West Word to see if she felt there would be any merit in publishing the notes of our meetings.

We also thought that more information about the group and its work ought to be displayed in our facilities and concluded that once the content of the website had been loaded onto the website we could then decided what we wanted to share. To discuss further at our June meeting.

**The Future**

It was agreed that we needed to consider our short, medium and long term plan and in doing so consider whether we are ambitious or merely intend to maintain the status quo. If we are ambitious, then how ambitious should we be.

We concluded that for the time being, we should focus on consolidating our existing facilities and not embark on any further long term projects. However, should opportunities arise to address short term issues with projects that were time limited, then these would continue to be considered by the Trustees. In the meantime, the group will engage in the development of the Local Place Plan alongside other key stakeholders. Stuart will also make contact with Sheila Kingsley. It was agreed that once we are happy to look at new projects in the medium and longer term, these should be compatible with the Local Place Plan.

**The AGM will be held at 7pm and the next meeting of the Trustees at 7.30pm on Tuesday 11 June in Mallaig and Morar Community Centre.**