

# Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust

ISLAND DIRECTORS' MEETING, 23/3/16

**Present:** Sarah Boden, Colin Carr, Greg Carr, Maggie Fyffe, Ian Leaver, Stuart McCarthy, Tasha McVarish

**Apologies:** Jacqueline Kirk

**Chair:** Colin Carr

**Volunteer Programme:** New wildlife warden, Dean Jones is arriving on Friday.

So far 19 volunteers are booked with the first arriving on 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Volunteer who is coming to build the bird hide will be here from 5<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> May.

Waymarkers on stobs have been getting knocked over by cattle using them as scratching posts ~ suggest using half stobs which will still be visible but should be ignored by cattle.

**Forestry Project:** LTFP won't be accepted until changes have been made to maps & thinning & felling plans. AB to discuss further with Ian Collier (Forestry Commission) & Gary to ascertain exactly what is required & whether or not there will be additional cost involved. Unfortunately, the cost of preparing the plan cannot be claimed until the plan is accepted. FGS scheme can provide some funding towards machinery (40% up to £35k). felling & clearing invasive species but other public funding cannot be used to match fund the machinery. Once this is done, IL intends to make a presentation to IERA to explain what is required in each compartment & how it might be funded.

Our project has been accepted by Making Local Woodlands Work (MLWW). This will take the form of provision of advice/expertise.

**Green Grants:** Final costs still to be supplied on the 2 remaining solar installations.

Small grant agreed towards Permaculture course to be held at Earth Connections Centre.

The grant will go towards cost of tutor & some free or subsidised places.

**Fencing:** Additional materials supplied for 2 replacement gates for the wall below the office

**Green Shed:** Repairs to green shed door ongoing.

All weather lighting ongoing.

**Eigg Electric:** Afnor have been in contact to say that "High Voltage Systems Safe Working" course should be available soon.

Refurbished turbine head has arrived.

Andrew Goodwin of KTSi Design has been in contact to ask if they can install an ultra-capacitor energy storage product which does much the same as the flywheel but has no moving parts. Eigg Electric directors have been advised that this has the potential for benefit

to the system and should not itself consume large amounts of electricity. KTSi are also offering to pay for any help in installing & a fee for looking after it.  
EEL & IL have agreed a 3 way hook up in a metal cabinet for connection to wigwams.  
Application for renewables rates relief received, completed & returned.

**Tracks:** Some hard core provided & worst of the potholes filled in on the first part of the track to Sandavore.

Hall track to be done on a voluntary basis but currently trying to figure out best way of dealing with drainage issues.

**CC & TM** still to walk the tracks & note drains & culverts which need attention & could be a job for volunteers over the summer.

Work to be carried out on Laig track with voluntary labour plus contribution from IEHT & EEL towards provision of hardcore.

**Trust Properties:** Meetings held & rent rise agreed with all tenants & leases updated where necessary.

List of maintenance required for each property provided.

**House Sites:** Some discussion about road map (a step by step guide to development of a house plot) & what might be added to clarify.

As all plots are valued at £40k it is essential that finished property is substantial & will be of sufficient value to protect IEHT share.

Meetings to be arranged with prospective applicants in near future.

HSCHT has announced that loans of up to £150k are to be made available for self builders.

**Housing for Rent:** Rural Housing Grant has become available which will provide community groups with funding of up to £84k towards a 2 bedroom house for rent &/or shared ownership. To be discussed further at board meeting.

**Old Surgery:** The surgery is now surplus to requirements & will soon be made available. It is felt that IEHT would be the most appropriate organisation to register an interest. There are various ideas for its' uses but IEHT would not wish to pursue unless it can be handed over at little or no cost. Suggest meeting with Gill McVicar on her visit on 12<sup>th</sup> April. Questions to ask would include: has a condition survey been done, will it include sheds & garden?

**Eigg Trading:** Pier tidy up happened & the area looks much tidier with large boulders being moved & addition parking spaces created.

Some maintenance to An Laimhrig planned before start of the season proper ie waiting room painted & guttering fixed. Benches to be provided for smoking area.

Septic tank to be emptied in near future but it is recognized that either some repairs are required or possibility that a replacement is required.

**Wigwams:** Plans for foundations to be provided. 3 way hook-up agreed with EEL who will also order the cable required for the connection.

IL currently ordering various electrical items which will be supplied to the wigwam company who will incorporate into each building.

Eigg has been included in Wigwam Cabins leaflet.

**GIS System:** First claim for HIE funding has now been submitted so a desktop computer will be purchased shortly & a suitable GIS system installed.

**Pier Wifi hotspot:** During busy summer days internet access in the pier area can be badly affected by the number of smartphones etc accessing the wifi. This causes problems for residents who take their connection from the pier mast. IEHT will investigate installing a wifi hotspot with secure access and limited bandwidth such that visitors can only access basic internet functions but cannot stream or skype or anything that takes up too much bandwidth. The intention is to have a one-off login procedure where visitors require to complete a short marketing questionnaire before gaining access to the internet. For longer term visitors there will be the option to purchase bandwidth above and beyond that which will be available for free.

**DONM:** IEHT Board Meeting: Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March