**MEETING OF SGOIL AN IOCHDAIR AGUS A’CHOIMHEARSNACHD**

**At 19:30 on 12th March 2025 at the Old School House**

1. **Welcome** 
   1. Present: Peter Bird, Kate Dawson, Robert Currie, Harry Luney, Joe MacNeil, Andrew Shaw, Anne Bird
   2. Apologies: Morag Ann MacAulay
   3. Minutes: Kate Dawson
2. The meeting was not quorate so no policy decisions were made.
3. **Trustees, vacancies – the priority and general chat**
   1. Kate is going to be leaving Iochdar, and is currently our secretary. This has been an ex officio post. She can continue until succession has been established.
   2. We don’t have enough trustees, and we need succession, with new people joining, with the vision to lead new projects. Harry, Joe, Andrew are members but not trustees (yet) – the group should have seven trustees, of which three should be representing a community organisation and one of which can be co-opted. We can/will propose that Harry, Joe and Andrew become trustees at the next AGM.
   3. We’ve not had many meetings in the previous year, there has been little activity and hence little incentive for people to get involved. Having the AGM soon would be a good idea, as there are two new projects ready to start.
   4. If we have the meeting soon, there are quite a few people who may be willing to join. There are quite a few parents on the parent council who might have the skills and ambition to drive new projects forward. We could approach parents at the school and croileagan by letter via the school. There is also the opportunity to circulate our ambitions via the church newsletter.
   5. We discussed the number of committees in Iochdar, and whether we should continue. SAIAAC is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee, with indemnity insurance. This puts us in a strong position for applying for funds.
   6. We discussed the pros and cons of circulating a short questionnaire locally. This might create expectations that we would be able to address any suggestions, or undermine the projects we have lined up. However, it would also demonstrate community engagement. We would need to frame our questions carefully.
4. **Lease for the ball park and tree planting area at Iochdar School.** There is a proposal to develop the ball pitch at Iochdar school. It is currently owned by the council, but they are willing to add this to the lease for SAIAAC for the area planted by trees. However, the lease for the latter area is due to lapse. Kate will find out who Mo Murray is, and make contact to see if we can sort out both leases. This new project could be one of the new initiatives to draw in new people.
5. **HHP playparks:** HHP have finally returned with the offer of a licence to look after the play parks at Cuidhe na Gamhne and Ford terrace. We need agreement from the majority of the trustees to agree taking on these licences. Kate will update HHP before completing the licences with the trustees. There is an opportunity to get a quote from a local contractor, Mr Nobles, who has experience in managing playparks. The two opportunities are:
   1. Refurbishment of the existing equipment at Ford Terrace, including painting, fencing, general repairs. The council are clear that there should be no ball-games allowed at the site.
   2. Re-evaluation of equipment, removing old equipment and installing new equipment at Cuidhe na Gamhne. There is an issue with parking, and an opportunity to add accessible play equipment.
6. Accounts:
   1. We noted the tragic death of Morag Ann’s husband, Donnie Steele. Kate will send a card of condolence on behalf of the committee.
   2. The end of year accounts are in preparation, but not ready for today’s meeting. Kate will circulate to the trustees by email so that these can be signed off virtually before the 31st March.
   3. Current balance just above £10,000
7. Football Pitch
   1. We discussed letting the lease for the pitch revert to Iochdar Hall. This should be agreed by the trustees. Any funding raised by SAIAAC should be spent on the pitch. We would need to ensure that the hall can access this funding.
   2. John Linich, who has undertaken pitch maintenance, has noticed an improvement in the pitch surface with the introduction of sand, and with young players using the pitch.
8. Provisional date of AGM – April 23rd 2025