

Upper Eskdale Development Group Meeting 4 February 2015

Present: Ernie Buck, Sue Company, Les Harrison, Nick Jennings, Jennie Mills, Jock Miller, Lodro Dorje

Absent/Apologies: Victoria Long, Scott McCarthy, Bernard Provost

Minutes of 7 January 2015: Jennie moved and Ernie seconded the motion that the minutes be approved. The motion was carried.

Matters Arising

Café: Martin Smith resigned as chef/café manager by email Monday evening, with immediate notice.

Discussion/action about this:

- Sue met with Tanith on Tuesday morning, and she agreed to take charge of the café until further notice. This changes her role to being full time in the café.
- Les and Nick said that the HR Subgroup will take this forward, and that the next meeting of the HR Subgroup will include Les. The HR Subgroup needs to reconvene asap.
- Les suggested the café management position be full time, so that the café can be open to the public every day of the week. Opening hours need to be set, and a core menu needs to be agreed. Suggested weekend café hours: Friday, 6 – 8 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday 12 noon to 3 p.m. This to be discussed with Tanith.
- The café menu should be scaled down, and Les presented a sample base menu and suggested specials and extras at times.
- Martin carried the license for the bar. Nick has informed the Annan & Esk Divisional Licensing Board of D&G Council of the need for a different holder. Six weeks wait, but the bar can operate during the wait. The new holder will need to take a course in Edinburgh, 20 February, for 275 pounds. Nick is willing to take this on. Prospective bar tenders: Adrian, John Emery, Jock Miller, Nick Jennings, Susie Lilley.
- Going forward: the Board needs to address how and what we are offering and what punters we are trying to attract.
- VAT/profit margins were discussed.
- Health check of the business/charity/project will go ahead.

Extractor Fan Modification. Nick is planning to speak to our solicitors about this (getting a fixed fee appointment). He will contact public & environmental health department to ascertain whether the specs of the fan are appropriate, by monitoring the decible rate of noise inside and outside the building. UEDG will pay to change the fan only if is effective to change.

UEDG Directors Personal Liability. This will be in place from 5 February.

Any Other Business

Signs have been ordered to advertise the Café. Also two smaller signs with arrows have been ordered. Jock will ask Kronospan if we can put them on the fence by the church. Sue will ask May Reid if we can put a sign on her fence.

Twiglees Land Purchase. Nick reported on this potential UEDG project:

- We must notify the district valuer by 15 February. Forestry enterprise to pay our share. Valuer has 20 days to make the evaluation.
- We have 56 days to prepare a submission, demonstrating that we are a legitimate body with connection to the land and that we want to secure it in the interest of the public.
- 90% of the value would be paid by the Scottish Land Fund, and 5% by the development fund.
- We have 18 months to prepare a business plan and to raise capital. Can back out at any point in this period.

Windfarm. Nick led a discussion about the financial aspects of this as a prospective project that would bring returns to the Eskdalemuir community.

SUMA Deliveries to Cooperatives in Eskdalemuir. It was agreed that the deliveries can be met in the HUB car park.

Events

14th February, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.: Shop Event. 10% of profit to go to the HUB.

A poster should be sent to Lodro Dorje to post at Samye Ling. Offerings by these stall holders:

- June Adgo: chutneys, jams.
- Abrots of Langholm: chocolates
- Marjorie Wilson: honey
- Gwyn Parry: fresh vegetables
- Tanith: baked goods
- Jock: scones
- Nick: bread. Bread orders to be taken in advance.
- Susie and Sue: baking and quiche

21 February: Casino Night. Jock is coordinating this. We need donations for casino prizes. Jock will recruit volunteers. Susie has agreed to deal a blackjack table.

14 March: Ceilidh. More details to follow

Next Directors' Meeting: 4 March 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Susie Lilley (Acting Secretary for Victoria Long)