

Meeting on 10th February 2014, 8pm

In Attendance: Michael Keane, Neil Walton, Helen McCauley, David McCoy, Mark Ballantyne

Chair: Mick McEnroe

Apologies: - Derek Parle, Sinead Maguire, Barry O Kane

Minutes:

Ratification of Minutes of previous meeting prop By MK and seconded by N.W.

Traffic Management

A general discussion took place regarding the traffic management issues on Strandhill seafront. It was agreed by the group to approach the council to increase the amount of bollards so that both sides of the road on the way up would have bollards as far as the car-park. It was also agreed that the council be urged to implement more stringent traffic control measures on seafront for the busy periods.

Coastal Erosion

Following from minutes of previous meeting it was agreed to ask Mr Barry O Kane to a future development association meeting to discuss the coastal erosion of the Strandhill area – NW agreed to facilitate this.

Communication Meeting on Proposed Maritime/Community Centre

Chairman gave a general synopsis of the communication meeting which took place prior to the development association meeting. It was relayed as being a positive meeting. Chairman mentioned that plans were presented to the public on the drawings completed by Sean Martin. Chairman confirmed that the general mood was positive (positive reaction and positive meeting) toward the building of a new Community/Maritime centre on seafront at the rear of 'Mrs Barry's' house and to be built on the existing 'peace park' to the rear. A number of options were suggested on the floor regarding the possible development of the front of the site and to acquire additional land to enable this to happen. Chairman relayed that this would take additional resources to complete. With additional follow up correspondence with concerned residents it was proposed to have an additional communication meeting in which additional plans be proposed to give options. In order for clarity Chairman relayed that due to lack of coherent minuted discussion of 'Communication meeting' the maritime board were to access a transcript of the meeting which Seamus McGoldrick had in his possession in order that a proper assessment of the meeting be recorded.

A general discussion ensued Chairman told the committee that several architects would be commissioned to tender for the design of the Maritime/Community centre. DMC said that he thought the meeting was very positive. MK said that the options he took from the communication meeting was that the group could only build what they could afford and additional works from the core objective (of building a community centre in a timely fashion) could follow in the times ahead when more finance was available. Chairman confirmed that the building process would be modular and would evolve from the initial incarnation. Chairman confirmed that the maritime board would be seeking architects in the near future. Chairman expressed the hope that 2016 may see beginning of construction

Chairman relayed in addition, that Strandhill Golf Club and Fáilte Ireland were supportive of the centre and that he would be having upcoming consultations with them and relay them back to the association (Strandhill golf club have also offered land near to the proposed project at no charge.

Mk suggested that the walkway from the carpark to the proposed centre over golf club land was essential. It was agreed that the presence and support of the council and the county manager was hugely positive also for the community. The chairman mentioned that the county manager had expressed the view that he was delighted with the professionalism and cohesiveness of the group and that that going forward was essential to a positive outcome for the centre. MB said that the county manager expressing support was hugely positive for the village. Chairman said the county manager had given praise as to the amount of consultation and due care and process to the proposal.

MK raised the fact that an open position from the Development association exists on the maritime board exists and would need to be filled in the near future. It was agreed to fill the position in the near future.

Chairman relayed for clarity, that in order for the centre to be front facing it would take an additional valuation for both the existing maritime centre and the whole of the 'Mrs Barry's' site (rather than the current valuation solely for the rear) and then the difference between the two would need additional funds raised. Chairman relayed that the reasoning behind only acquiring 'half' the site was to put all funds into the initial development in order that it could proceed in a more timely fashion. Chairman accepted that some people in the community would prefer both options be given and this would be brought to the next Maritime Board meeting. HMCC queried that the eventual valuation of the completed centre would be more if it were sea-facing than not – MK said that as the funding would be grant aided and that would negate the view of valuation of the saleable value of the site but instead be replaced on its value to the community as a whole. Chairman said that the community would not be borrowing on the basis of a saleable asset but as a community asset. Chairman said at present the community can proceed with the project as it stands but additional resources and time would be needed if the plans were to alter. MB relayed that as some of the centre would be commercial in nature that the sea facing aspect may be an important issue in the future. MK said that future negotiation about varying issues would be needed between the Maritime Board and Voya into the future.

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NW gave a brief synopsis of contact made by Failte Ireland to develop a network of surf centres – DMC enquired whether a commitment was given to funding by Failte Ireland for the proposed community centre. Chairman confirmed the process was:- community involvement and consultation then approach for funding but expressed the view that Fáilte Ireland would be receptive. MK relayed that Failte Ireland were made aware of the project in the initial stages of the proposal but now it has proceeded further it can be brought directly to them. Chairman expressed the hope that 2016 may see beginning of construction. HMcc inquired whether a change of the development plan was required –Chairman confirmed that it was merely a meeting of the council to change. It was agreed that the final decision by the maritime board on the correct way to proceed would be made in the near future and then relayed back to the Development association at the next meeting. HMCC expressed reservations about the design on the drawings in circulation – Chairman assured that that was only an artist's impression but not the final façade of the project. HMC expressed the view that some in the community would be apprehensive about any changes to the existing surf centre and it

was important to allay these fears moving forward – this was agreed and that consultation would be an ongoing process.

Community Employment Scheme

Chairman asked this to be delayed until a subsequent meeting.

Opening of Looped Walk

The opening of the looped walk was set for the 18th April. All were asked to attend. Chair relayed that Strand Celtic were to assist in the stewardship of the walk on the day. Sponsorship cards were to be given out to the children to raise funds in exchange for completing the walk on the day. It was agreed that the walk would be a terrific addition to the village for tourism generally. Chairman relayed the thanks and appreciation of the committee and praise be given to Michael Carty from Sligo County Council, Seamus Gilligan and Michael Keane – without their support and contribution it wouldn't have been possible. MK expressed praise to Michael Carty for his efforts and praised the idea and construction of the walk and also to Gerard Love contractors for laying the wooden path.

MK expressed the hope that the walk would develop with a 'tell the story' perhaps using chat to Seamus McGoldrick to construct a narrative.

Village Clean Up

Village clean has scheduled for the 28th March 2015. It was agreed to purchase signage to advertise and use local notes and advertising.

Relocation of Monument

Chairman relayed that the council had approached the community about relocating the design on the seafront to the carpark. The idea is to be able to utilise the free space for the public more effectively than at present. NW expressed the view that the monument be replaced with a Wild Atlantic Way signature monument. NW outlined that a 'signature point' was a Fáilte Ireland construct as more than a mere stopping point but a major vantage point along the WAW route.. at present Mullaghmore were selected in the Sligo region but NW expressed that the view that this might be altered to include Strandhill – NW mentioned that he would talk to Fáilte Ireland about this and return to the group.

No objection was given nor envisioned... it was agreed to relay to council that there is no objection and to relocate it.

Any other business

MK mentioned social media for the association and it was agreed to utilise www.gostrandhill.com to relay community business rather than construct a new forum.

DMC mentioned about the pathway on the promenade being washed away and the council were planning on rehabilitation of the pathway in the coming week.

DMC also informed the meeting that Minister Simon Harris would be visiting the village in the coming week and the support from the committee was requested.

Meeting Finished at 9.30pm.