

HIGHLAND LEADER 2014 – 2020 PROGRAMME
SKYE STEERING GROUP/LAP MEETING
5:00 – 7:00 PM, 3 NOVEMBER 2015, HIE BOARDROOM, PORTREE

PRESENT:

Public Members – Stephen Varwell (SNH), Jennifer Macpherson (HIE), Annie Davidson (HLH), Roddy Murray (Sleat CC), Willie MacKinnon (THC – advisory/non-voting)

Private/Community Members – Roger Liley (PACT), Lachie MacDonald (L&SHA), Donald MacDonald (Staffin Community Trust), Nick Duffill (Minginish Community Trust), Beth Kennedy (Youth rep), Aonghas Mehan (Youth rep)

Member Apologies:

Meg Gillies (SLCVO), Calum Macleod (Broadford & Strath Community Council)

In Attendance:

Liz Whiteford (Highland LEADER Development Officer)

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS:

Stephen Varwell (chair) welcomed everyone including the new members (Beth Kennedy, Aonghas Mehan, and Nick Duffill), invited everyone present to introduce themselves, and thanked HIE for the use of their boardroom

NOTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Accepted by all present as an accurate note.

SKYE Local Area Action Plan and Local Area Partnership Update

All present went through the draft Local Area Action Plan (LAAP) and agreed some final minor amendments. LW to update. To avoid confusion, it was agreed that members destroy earlier drafts of the Skye LAAP and that the final version of the LAAP would not be publicly circulated until it was approved by the Highland LAG.

New LAP members: Nick Duffill (Minginish Community Trust), Beth Kennedy (Youth sector), and Aonghas Mehan (Youth sector). Skye LAP membership now has reasonable geographic/demographic coverage, a wide variety of skills/experience and, with 7 private/community voting members and 6 public voting members, meets EU public/private membership requirements.

The membership status of Annie Davidson has been changed to public as, although HighLife Highland is a charity, it is also an 'arms length' organisation funded by Highland Council.

The membership status of Community Council members for LEADER purposes remains 'public' despite most of those present considering them community rather than public volunteers but as community councils were created by legislation ([Local Government \(Scotland\) Act 1973](#)) to fulfil a statutory role in local government, for which they receive an administrative grant from public funds, their LAP membership status is considered public.

DISBANDING OF SKYE STEERING GROUP AND FORMATION OF SKYE LAP:

Satisfied with the drafting of the Skye Local Area Action Plan and the membership of the Skye LAP, the Skye steering group's role ended and the Skye LAP was formed.

Meg Gillies was the sole nomination for the Skye LAP chair but because she was not present to respond to this nomination she is to be contacted after the meeting for her response.

Stephen Varwell was the sole nomination for the Skye LAP vice-chair and agreed to take on this role and continued to chair the Skye LAP meeting in the absence of the nominated LAP chair.

The Skye LAP agreed that the Skye LAAP could now be submitted to the Highland LAG for their consideration/approval. LW to also circulate final version of LAAP to LAP members.

AOB:

LW reminded those present that the LEADER budget allocation of £313,745 for Skye was indicative and could change.

The Highland Council (as the accountable body) has not yet signed up to the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Scottish Government for delivery of the LEADER Programme in Highland but it remains hopeful that it will be able to do so shortly. Until the SLA is signed and full LEADER Programme Guidance has been received, the Highland LAG is not in a position to launch its 2014-2020 LEADER Programme.

All LAP members have the opportunity of providing the name of a substitute from their organisation or sector who can attend LAP meetings and make decisions in their absence.

All LAP members (including any named substitutes) are required to complete a register of interest form. LW to email the form/guidance to LAP members who should also forward to their substitute for completion if applicable. Declarations of interest are intended to produce transparency in regard to interests which might influence, or be perceived to influence, any actions/decisions taken. Where an interest has been declared at a meeting, and that interest is considered a conflict of interest, then that person should withdraw from the meeting while the relevant agenda item is being discussed and any decision taken. See Highland Operating Guidelines and Register of Interest guidance for further information.

Copy of final LAAP along with appendices to be emailed out to LAP members.

NEXT SKYE LAP MEETING:

The next meeting of the Skye LAP is to be held on Thursday 21 January 2016 from 4-6pm in the HIE Office Boardroom, Portree.

This meeting will hopefully include LAP member training.