

**HIGHLAND LEADER 2014 – 2020 PROGRAMME**

**SKYE LAP MEETING: 4:00 – 6:00PM, 26 MAY 2016, TIGH NA SGIRE, PORTREE**

**Public Voting Members Present:** Stephen Varwell, Jennifer Macpherson, John Gordon, Calum Macleod, Annie Davidson

**Private/Community Voting Members Present:** Meg Gillies, Roger Liley, Nick Duffill, Beth Kennedy,

**Advisory/Non-Voting Members Present:** Willie Mackinnon

**In Attendance:** Liz Whiteford (Highland LEADER Development Officer), Jo Ford (SLCVO)

**Apologies:** Donald Macdonald, Lachie Macdonald, Aonghas Mehan

**WELCOME AND APOLOGIES:**

Meg Gillies welcomed all present and apologies were notified as above.

Meg Gillies intimated that she was retiring from her SLCVO post and that she would also be retiring from the SKYE LAP and from her position as LAP Chair.

Jo Ford of SLCVO is to replace Meg Gillies on the SKYE LAP.

In his absence, Lachie Macdonald was unanimously voted in as SKYE LAP chair assuming that he is willing to take on this role.

All LAP members present were asked to sign a Code of Conduct form relating to meetings and information.

Photographs of all present were taken for possible inclusion on the Highland LEADER website.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / REGISTER OF INTEREST FORMS:**

Any outstanding ROI forms to be returned to Liz Whiteford asap.

Any ROI/LAP Member updates to be notified to Liz Whiteford.

Nick Duffill and Calum Macleod verbally intimated updates which they will confirm to Liz Whiteford by email.

**NOTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Note of 21.1.16 meeting (previously circulated) was accepted as an accurate record.

Proposed by: Roger Liley / Seconded by: Nick Duffill

**MATTERS ARISING and not arising elsewhere:** None

**DEVELOPMENT OFFICER UPDATE:**

The Highland LEADER Programme officially launched on 9.5.16. Most up-to-date version of the LAAP has been circulated to LAP members and is now available on the Highland LEADER website ([www.highlandleader.com](http://www.highlandleader.com)). To avoid confusion, members were reminded to destroy any earlier out-of-date versions. The SKYE LAP has to review its Local Area Action Plan (LAAP) within 6 months of the Programme's launch so this review will be an agenda item for the 24.8.16 SKYE LAP meeting.

As at 25.5.16 there have been 6 SKYE area EOIs received of which 1 relates to a joint SKYE/WRS� area project and 4 relate to rural enterprise/farm diversification projects which will be dealt with by the Strategic LAG Rural Enterprise sub-group which has a separate Highland budget and eligibility criteria which is not expected to be available until July at the earliest.

Of the 2 EOIs received from community organisations both have been contacted since the launch of the programme and notified about any eligibility issues arising from their EOIs and asked whether they still wish to pursue the LEADER application process. No pre-application forms have been released to date.

SKYE LAP members were reminded of their decision (and the decision of the Highland LAG) that EOIs, Pre-applications and Full applications remain confidential until a decision/grant offer is issued. Any record of discussions about individual EOIs, Pre-applications, and full applications would be included as an appendix to the note of SKYE LAP meetings.

Continuation of THC loan service for LEADER projects is still not known but the Highland LAG is trying to progress some options. In the absence of this service, applicants will have to address their project cashflow as part of any Highland LEADER application.

**APPLICATION PROCESS/ASSESSMENT/SCORING:**

Liz Whiteford delivered a training session which provided details about the 3-stage LEADER application process operating in Highland and included a mock pre-application assessment/scoring session which those present indicated they found very useful.

**AOCB:**

Jennifer Macpherson updated those present on her attendance at the Scottish LEADER conference indicating that she found the Cooperation project session on the final day particularly interesting (JM’s notes to follow); one suggestion was for a possible cooperation project relating to ‘visitor management of over-visited sites’. LW indicated that is hoped that a Highland Cooperation event will follow later in the year.

Public LEADER information event followed this SKYE LAP meeting.

**CONFIRMED SKYE LAP MEETING DATES, VENUES AND TIMINGS**

	2016	2016	2017
DATE	Wed 24 AUGUST	Wed 23 NOVEMBER	Wed 15 FEBRUARY
VENUE	Tigh na Sgìre, Portree	Tigh na Sgìre, Portree	Tigh na Sgìre, Portree
TIME	4:00 – 6:00 PM	4:00 – 6:00 PM	4:00 – 6:00 PM

**ADDITIONAL SKYE LAP MEETING DATES, VENUES AND TIMINGS**

	2017	2017	2017
DATE	Thurs 25 MAY	Thurs 31 AUGUST	Thurs 30 NOVEMBER
VENUE	Tigh na Sgìre, Portree	Tigh na Sgìre, Portree	Tigh na Sgìre, Portree
TIME	4:00 – 6:00 PM	4:00 – 6:00 PM	4:00 – 6:00 PM