

SHETLAND LEADER 2007 - 2013 LAG

MINUTES OF LAG MEETING HELD IN EDU BOARDROOM AT 10.00AM ON THURSDAY 19th JUNE 2014.

Present: Douglas Irvine, SIC
David Cormack, SGRPID
Ruth Henderson, Seafood Shetland
Michael Duncan, SIC
Tommy Coutts, SIC
Wendy Hand, VAS
Kathleen Sinclair, NFU
Sally Spence, SIC
Jem Tulloch, HIE Shetland (proxy for Fiona Stirling)
Juan Brown, SNH
Diana Abernethy, AB Associates Ltd

Sheila Tulloch, SIC – LAG Co-ordinator

1. Apologies and Introductions

Apologies were received from Karen Eunson, Shetland College; Fiona Stirling, HIE; June Porter, SIC; Sylvia Jamieson, CAB; Jeemie Smith, FSB and Bryan Leask, HHA.

2. Membership Balance

Membership of the group was discussed and there was an imbalance with slightly more public sector than private sector members. It was agreed to proceed with the meeting as there were no projects for approval therefore voting would not be required.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes of 27th March 2014

The minutes were approved by Ruth Henderson and seconded by Wendy Hand.

5. Latest Updates

Sheila discussed the approvals list and financial updates. The majority of projects have submitted final claims or are about to do so.

Project LDR 100 – SSQC – Somatic Testing of Shetland Milk. The LAG had discussed this project in detail at the previous meeting in February. The LAG agreed to withdraw funding for this project as it would not be able to proceed as per the approved application.

Project LDR 016 – Soil Association Scotland – Crofting Connections. This project had been discussed during a recent Scottish Government monitoring

visit. There were a number of issues with the project, the crucial one being the applicant had not contributed the minimum amount of funding required. The Scottish Government had recommended the project be closed immediately with no further payments of grant. The LAG agreed to close the project.

Project CVG 114 – Shetland Community Benefit Fund – Development of Business Plan. This project was withdrawn at the request of the applicant. The project may wish to apply to for funding from the LEADER 2014-2020 Programme.

All remaining projects were progressing well.

6. Shetland LEADER 2007 – 2013 Brochure

The LAG discussed the newly published brochure. All members were delighted with the finished brochure and the LAG unanimously wished to thank all those involved in the preparation of the brochure. It will highlight the achievements of the 2007-2013 Programme whilst raising interest and awareness for the new 2014-2020 Programme. The brochure will be circulated as widely as possible in both electronic and hard copy.

7. Comments from LEADER 2014 – 2020 Roadshows

The LAG discussed the summary of comments from the recent roadshows. Similar themes and issues were raised at each event. The LAG agreed it captured the essence of what was discussed at the roadshows.

Ruth Henderson pointed out an inaccuracy regarding shipping of all salmon offal South. This can be processed locally and was assumed to be a misunderstanding.

8. Local Development Strategy and Business Plan Update

Tommy updated the group on the progress of the draft Local Development Strategy (LDS). It had been submitted to the Scottish Government at the end of March. Positive feedback had been provided from the Government. Some adjustments will be made to the LDS before resubmitting including linking priorities and actions to the SWOT to evidence need.

A business plan is currently being prepared, this needs to be submitted along with the updated LDS by the end of July. The business plan will cover how the LAG will operate and effectively deliver the LDS over the period. Douglas thanked Tommy for all the effort and time he was putting into preparing the documents.

9. LEADER Workstream Meeting Update

Sheila provided more details on Workstream meetings. There are four groups; Guidance, Co-operation, IT and Finance. Sheila attended a meeting of the Finance group in April where a format was agreed, groups will meet every four weeks to discuss relevant items.

The Finance group has been discussing proposed IT systems. It is likely claims will be processed off line. The LEADER 2014 – 2020 Programme will aim to do a lot of tasks using IT systems but paper copies of all documentation may still be required.

10. AOB

Scottish Government Monitoring Visit

Following on from the recent monitoring visit the Shetland LEADER Programme has retained its Amber status (but a lighter shade!).

Scottish Rural Parliament

The Scottish Rural Parliament are proposing to hold an event in Shetland before the end of September. Sheila circulated a briefing document she had received. She stated a representative had been in contact and had sent details regarding an electronic survey which she would forward to LAG members via email after the meeting.

11. Date of next meeting/closure

Sheila will email LAG members to see which dates are most suitable for the next LAG meeting. It will be held after the school summer holidays finish in August.

Meeting closed at 10.55 am.