

NORTH HARRIS TRUST

**MINUTE OF MEETING**

**TITLE** : The North Harris Trust

**DATE** : 29:09:2014

**TIME** : 7.30pm

**VENUE** : Tigh an Urrais

Present: Calum MacKay, Tim Langley, Karen MacRae, David Wake, Diana MacLennan, Steve McCombe, Alistair MacLeod, Kenny MacLeod, Sheila Roderick, Ian MacSween, John A MacDonald, Kenny MacKay, CB Morrison, DJ Morrison, D J Cunningham, Gordon Cumming

Item	Summary and Action	Who?	When?
1.	<b>Apologies</b>  Matt Watts, Mick Blunt, Barbara MacKay		
2.	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes were approved by Kenny MacKay and seconded by Calum MacKay.</li> <li><u>Amhuinnsuidhe Cairn</u>: After writing to the Health Board, Alistair has now received a response confirming that they are willing to contribute the outstanding shortfall of £4500 once Title for the Cairn is transferred to the Trust. The Board were pleased with this decision. It was felt that it should be publicised that the Cairn repair has been completed. Calum expressed his thanks to all staff involved and to James Crawford for their work in completing the task.</li> <li><u>Gunnera</u>: Calum asked whether any progress had been made in coordinating the efforts of various parties throughout Lewis and Harris which have an interest in the control of Gunnera. Gordon will investigate further.</li> <li><u>Quayside Cottages</u>: Diana circulated an email after the last meeting with figures related to grants and income for Quayside Cottages. There is an issue at the moment with the current septic tank being beyond repair. Alistair has spoken to SEPA and also to Alasdair MacLeod regarding the situation and a replacement tank is required. The installation will be costly due to the location of the tank. Alasdair Meavaig will advise Alistair on the best option to proceed.</li> </ul>	Gordon	
3.	<b>Staff Reports</b>  <u>Matters arising from Staff Reports</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Common Grazings mapping has now been completed and the Crofting Commission will be issuing a press release shortly. Lesley Scott and Rhona Elrick from the Registers of Scotland will visit the office on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October to discuss croft registration.</li> <li>Gordon is progressing well with the Upland Habitat Management Plan and the tender documents should be ready to be sent out by the first week in October.</li> <li>Neil Robertson, Aline Estate Manager, approached Gordon regarding the possibility of re-instating a rough shooting lease. After discussion, the Board felt that they did not wish to grant a lease at present.</li> </ul>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Lewis &amp; Harris Goose Management Group were given permission to shoot geese on NHT land. They intend to have a cull and although geese are not a problem on Trust land, it was felt that NHT should co operate. Gordon will liaise with the group and local grazings committees on the Trust's behalf.</li> <li>• Monan is progressing well and it is hopeful that the turbines will be on site by Christmas.</li> <li>• The Buna Hydro Scheme is also progressing and we are awaiting completion of legal documentation. David asked the Board if Calum could be empowered to sign the documents on their behalf once received. This was agreed.</li> <li>• Linus Bewicke's placement at the Recycling Depot has come to an end. Funding has been secured for another placement and the position is currently being advertised.</li> <li>• Karen has submitted a first round application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Whaling Station conservation project. A decision should be known by Christmas as to whether the application is successful. A discussion took place regarding preservation of the chimney at present and whether it would be advisable to apply for an emergency grant. It was felt that it would be best to await the outcome of the application as the chimney is not in any immediate danger.</li> <li>• This year's Mountain Festival was very successful. Calum gave thanks to Matt in particular for all his hard work and also all the other people who had contributed. All events were well attended and plenty positive feedback received.</li> <li>• The summer programme of guided walks also proved successful this year.</li> <li>• Thanks was given to the John Muir Volunteers who, once again, did an excellent job on footpaths and clean ups. The Trust provided a meal for the 18 volunteers in the Isle of Harris Inn on Thursday evening.</li> </ul>			
4.	<b>Finance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A monthly finance report and projected income and expenditure spreadsheet was circulated.</li> </ul>		
5.	<b>Scalpay Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ann-Marie is working on a change of use planning application before Scalpay School can be tenanted. A disabled toilet will also have to be fitted before a Building Warrant can be issued. Parking requirements are also an issue on the site. It was suggested that Ann-Marie speak to our local councillors to see if they can help out with these issues. CnES have assured Ann-Marie verbally that they will extend the lease date accordingly to enable tenants to have the full duration of their agreed lease.</li> <li>• All the Gunnera that Ann-Marie was aware of has now been removed and will continue to be monitored.</li> <li>• The new tenant will move in to the Care Unit on 1<sup>st</sup> November. There is a problem with the main door sticking but John Archie will have a look at it to see what can be done.</li> <li>• After being approached by a number of concerned residents regarding the state of the playpark, it was agreed that Karen would offer assistance to the Scalpay Community Association to take forward a renovation project. Karen will meet with Margaret MacKenzie to discuss the project further.</li> </ul>		

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6.	<b>Stalking Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr Mark Barrett will be coming for two days stalking in November and either a member of the Stalking Club or ACE will ghillie for him. Gordon will deal with this.</li> </ul>		
7.	<b>HIE Infill Suggestion for West Loch Tarbert</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Trust was approached by Lewis MacKenzie, HIE, to gauge opinion on whether it would be feasible to infill an area at the West Loch for development. Calum and Alistair had a look at the area and it was felt that further information would be required before commenting.</li> </ul>		
8.	<b>Croileagan Building</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The funding application to the Tudor Trust for the Croileagan Building has been unsuccessful. A number of groups have approached the Trust requesting use of the Croileagan Building. It was agreed to allow groups to use the building until a definite decision on its use is made and to request a donation rather than charge for use. A proposal has been received from a group of mothers for a soft play area. It was felt that it would be beneficial to enquire about planning requirements before any further decisions are made.</li> </ul>		
9.	<b>Community Consultation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After the success of the last Community Consultations it was decided that it would be timely to hold a number of meetings again. Meetings will be held in Scaladale, Amhuinnsuidhe, Tarbert and Scalpay in the last week of October and the first week of November.</li> </ul>	Staff/Directors	
9.	<b>AOCB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kenny MacKay will be the Trust representative at the wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial.</li> <li>Approval was received for a new <i>Friends of North Harris</i> leaflet.</li> <li>Sheila asked if it would be appropriate for the Trust to lodge a registration of interest in the Eilean Glas lighthouse. It was agreed to do so.</li> <li>It was decided to have the Christmas dinner at the North Harbour Bistro in Scalpay.</li> </ul>		
10.	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014, Tigh an Urrais, 7.30pm</b></li> </ul>		