

# NORTH HARRIS TRUST

## MINUTE OF MEETING

**TITLE** : The North Harris Trust  
**DATE** : 06:11:2023  
**VENUE** : Tigh an Urrais and Zoom

**TIME** : 7.30pm

Present: Michael Hunter, Calum MacKay, Barbara MacKay, D J Morrison, Diana MacLennan, Kirsty MacKay, David Wake, Lena Morrison, Phil Butterfield, Tim Langley, Fañch Bihan-Gallic, Robert MacKinnon, Paul Russ, Catriona Marshall

Item	Summary and Action	Who?	When?
1.	<b>Constantine Wind Energy Presentation, Q&amp;A</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Tim French, Constantine Wind Energy, presented the proposed plans for Monan to the Board. Directors comments will be sent to CWE after the plans are discussed further.</li></ul>		
2.	<b>Apologies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Finlay MacLeod, Donald MacLeod</li></ul>		
3.	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No matters arising.</li></ul>		
4.	<b>Conflicts of Interest</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No conflicts of interest to report.</li></ul>		
5.	<b>Tarbert &amp; Scalpay Sub-committee Recommendations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The recommendations from both the Tarbert and Scalpay Directors meetings were discussed and it was decided to await the outcomes of the Community Consultation meetings before discussing further.</li></ul>		
6.	<b>Finance Sub-committee Budget Approval</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>An update on the finance reports was given and the budget was approved as presented.</li></ul>		
7.	<b>Estate Sub-committee Croft Absenteeism Options</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The subject of croft absenteeism was discussed at the request of the Estate Sub-committee after legal advice had been sought on how to approach these situations. This advice was discussed, and it was decided that the Trust should continue to pursue the Crofting</li></ul>		

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	<p>Commission on these matters wherever possible, but not take direct action itself. It was highlighted that there is not a high percentage of absentee tenants and owner-occupiers across the estate.</p>		
<p>8. <b>Staff Reports &amp; Matters Arising</b></p>	<p><b>Manager, Michael Hunter (MH)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval was given for £200k to be invested in a 6-month fixed term account.</li> <li>• HHP are progressing with the Scott Road housing project.</li> <li>• NatureScot have advised that a minimum 220 annual cull target for hinds should be met over the next 5 years to guarantee the AECS payment.</li> <li>• Community Consultations will be held over the coming weeks as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Scaladale Centre 14th November</li> <li>➢ Scalpay CC 16th November</li> <li>➢ Huisinis 21st November</li> <li>➢ Tarbert 23rd November</li> </ul> <p>Each meeting will commence at 7pm.</p> <p>Directors should aim to attend at least one meeting, usually their local meeting if possible. Meetings will be advertised in the normal way through social media, Dè tha Dol? and Gaelic radio.</p> </li> <li>• Maintenance of the memorial in preparation for Armistice Day on 11th November has been completed. An advert was placed in the Dè tha Dol? to inform that wreaths are available to local organisations, and ministers are organising the conduct of the service, procession, and memorial ceremony. It was suggested that organisations previously involved be contacted directly and Directors offered to help.</li> <li>• Revised costs for undertaking the electrical work at the Scaladale shed have been obtained, now £3,500. The Board approved the works be undertaken at this cost.</li> <li>• Crossroads Care Harris have asked for a funding donation of £2800 towards their running costs. West Harris Trust and Muitheabhal have also been asked for the same amount of funding. The Board were supportive of the service provided and agreed the donation but have asked to iterate that this is a one-off donation.</li> <li>• Another funding request was received from NHS Western Isles to support an individual in the community. As this request did not fit the criteria it was declined, but it was thought that applying to the HVS Hardship Fund should be suggested.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ranger, Fañch Bihan-Gallic (FBG)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FBG has had a busy walks season but even though numbers attending walks were down, donations remained steady.</li> <li>• The Ranger Service had to intervene in Gleann Sgaothdail, where about 7 people were using off-road motorbikes against the SOAC and the Land Reform Act. The bikers were warned and told they could not do so without express consent from the landowner. It was suggested that it may be worth considering a specific area on the estate where the Trust would tolerate such activities, provided prior authorisation was granted. The Board decided against this and agreed that no authorisation would be given.</li> </ul>		

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	<p><b>Steven Morrison, Chargehand (SM)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SM has been spraying gunnera and many individuals have made use of the sprayers provided at the Depot as volunteers.</li> <li>• More trees have been received and planted with 14k trees being delivered to various locations.</li> <li>• It was suggested to compile an article for the Dè tha Dol? to inform the community of all the works being done, gunnera spraying footpath work and tree planting.</li> <li>• It was decided to organise a gunnera spraying course.</li> </ul> <p><b>David Wake, Development Officer (DW)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The planning application has been submitted for the Meavaig Housing Project. Quotes have been received for the Building Warrant work of £17,090. David asked if the Board would be willing to grant this funding from the ringfenced housing funds. It is hoped RHF will contribute but Trust funds would allow progression at this stage. The Board agreed to release the funds.</li> <li>• The summer hire cost for the Portaloo at Meavaig North was just short of £1200. It was felt that this was expensive but that it would be more favourable to provide a service than to deal with inappropriate behaviour. Ideas were discussed and DW will investigate options.</li> </ul>	<p>MH</p> <p>DW</p> <p>DW</p>	<p>ASAP</p> <p>Before next meeting</p> <p>Before next visitor season</p>	
9.	AOCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No matters to discuss.</li> </ul>		
10.	DOMN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023</li> </ul>		