

NORTH HARRIS TRUST

MINUTE OF MEETING

TITLE : The North Harris Trust

DATE : 19:06:2023

TIME : 7.30pm

VENUE : Tigh an Urrais

Present: Calum MacKay, Robert MacKinnon, Barbara MacKay, David Wake, Phil Butterfield, Michael Hunter, D J Morrison, Paul Russ, Kate Lewis, Fañch Bihan-Gallic, Katherine Rodger, Lena Morrison, Kirsty MacKay

Item	Summary and Action	Who?	When?
1.	Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none">Finlay E MacLeod, Donald MacLeod, Tim Langley, Diana MacLennan		
2.	Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">Minutes were approved by Barbara MacKay, seconded by Robert MacKinnonA SAGE update is still required from CIB before the next quarterly review at the end of July.	DM	Before next meeting.
3.	Conflicts of Interest <ul style="list-style-type: none">No conflict of interest was declared.		
4.	Staff Reports & Matters Arising Manager's Report (MH) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Two seasonal wardens have commenced in role. Both are based in Lewis, and it is hoped they will spend about half their time in Harris.The rent for the mast at Creagan Rudha, Gòbhaig has been revised down to £1500 per annum, it is agreed that this is as low as will be accepted and could be considered a Trust policy.The HHP Scott Road housing project is progressing, some legal work remains to be done.The timeline for the HDL Key Worker Accommodation project was highlighted, shareholder approval will be sought over July with an SLF application due in August.Rent review Iomairt an Òbain: Units 1 & 2 have not increased their rentals; MH will chase.Rionnagan Òga have accepted the offer of taking ownership of the Croileagan building and are considering the legal implications for their organisation.Deer Leases: Most leases have been agreed and signed, MH is expecting the final lease to be signed this week.Scalpay Football pitch: Trust legal advice recommends a removal of the area from crofting tenure; however, this is not the wish of the crofter. It is recognised that a lease with SCA could be put in place without removal from crofting tenure, this would involve some risk which is thought to be acceptable. This has all been communicated to the croft tenant.	MH	By July 2023

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSEN: SSEN have made a proposal to establish 16 ha native woodland in North Harris as compensatory planting linked to the 132 kV overhead line replacement, details will be determined in due course. • SSEN wayleaves: Wayleaves have been signed. There is some uncertainty as to the exact route of the 132 kV overhead line given recent property transfers in the vicinity of Ardhasaig. MH will ask SSEN to confirm the route. • CLOH AGM: MH invited a board member to attend the AGM. Directors will check their availability. <p>Marketing Officer Report (KR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been good social media engagement recently, and the new websites should be ready to go live soon. Neither should need much further updating by the end of the placement in July. KR has created a guideline document for NHT staff on the new website mechanics. Staff will need to consider social media post frequency. • KR's placement is soon coming to an end, and her last visit to Harris shall be in the second half of July. She was thanked by the board for her work. <p>Development Officer Report (DW)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing: CnES is currently working on a new approach to facilitate housing in North Harris, this has proven to be a complex project but will hopefully deliver new housing opportunities in the area. The housing sub-committee will need to meet once Modular West has come back with detailed project costings for the Trust site in Miabhag. • Urgha Retail: The importance of this service in the local community was mentioned and it was highlighted that turnover is significantly up over the course of the last 12 months, although it is understood that this does not necessarily correspond to increased revenue. NHT Directors wish to be kept abreast of the profit and loss figures for the retail business. Quarterly NHTC report figures shall be copied to the full NHT board. • Hùisinis: There continues to be good uptake with the parking meters (95% of users pay, compared to the <50% contribution under the previous donations-based system). It was noted that vending machine sales are also good, with the main sellers being water, soft drinks, crisps, and chocolate. A short discussion arose concerning waste disposal at Hùisinis, it was decided to wait and see how the situation evolves this summer before making decisions. <p>Ranger Report (FBG)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FBG is not managing to engage the school with a Gaelic-medium John Muir Award, and neither the teachers nor the CnaG officer are identifying interested pupils. This may mean a lower claim on Bòrd na Gàidhlig funding for the project. FBG has engaged with an English medium JMA by using Gaelic with GME pupils, and other youth activities have been carried out in Gaelic. Therefore, it is hoped that this will satisfy some of the funding conditions. • Guided Walk: FBG mentioned that donations may not be as high as some previous years'. Charging for walks was considered, and it was decided that FBG will be more insistent on the need for participants to donate. Donation figures will be available for review at the end of the season to allow a board decision to be made on this matter. 	<p>MH</p> <p>Housing sub committee</p> <p>DW</p> <p>FBG</p>	<p>ASAP</p> <p>ASAP once Modular West has responded</p> <p>Each NHTC meeting</p> <p>By October 2023</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a recurring issue of visitors defecating close to the public track in Gleann Mhiabhaig and Àird Mhulaidh woodland, and a resident from Miabhag nam Beann has recently left a handwritten note to visitors in the Eagle Observatory on the matter. Many are aware of this issue and FBG will replace the handwritten note with official NHT signs directing visitors to other facilities. The provision of facilities at Miabhaig nam Beann was discussed. It was agreed that both short- and longer-term solutions to providing toilets and increasing parking provision should be explored and actioned if feasible. This will be discussed and investigated by staff. 	<p>FBG</p> <p>DW</p>	<p>ASAP</p> <p>July 2023</p>
5.	Tarbert Growing Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DW tabled a proposal on the Tarbert Growing Project, as a decision is required on staffing for the project and contractors will need to be instructed soon on the polycrub build. Funding has been secured for the required infrastructure; however, no funding is available for a gardener/educator, which is thought to be crucial to project success. The Board agreed to commit up to £27,000 Trust project funds towards a post, to be spent from February 2024 onwards, and to allow the project to progress. It was agreed that the aim is for this project to be self-sustaining and/or attract suitable funding once it is in place, as well as deliver on various important Trust objectives. It was identified that engagement with community members will be the key to project success, and it was confirmed that interest has been expressed by individuals and organisations. Advertising the project can begin as soon as relevant. 	
6.	AOCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was agreed that the Trust consents to peatland restoration surveys on Bogha Glas common grazings, as part of a larger project by the adjacent private landlord. The local crofters have been informed. This survey information should be useful in developing Trust understanding of the mechanisms and process involved in restoration work of this nature. NatureScot Peatland Action are leading the project. 	
7.	DONM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 14th August 2023 	
8.	Staff Review	<p><i>Trust Staff left the meeting.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A review of the staffing resource was undertaken by the Board of Directors, and decisions were made to increase staffing over the next four months to allow the continuation of necessary Trust activity and the development of Trust projects. 	