NORTH HARRIS TRUST

MINUTE OF MEETING

TITLE : **The North Harris Trust**

DATE : **11:08:2025**

TIME : **7.30pm**

VENUE : **Tigh an Urrais**

Present: Michael Hunter (MH), Kirsty MacKay, D J Morrison, Paul Russ, Diana MacLennan, John Sutton, David Wake, Calum MacKay, Barbara MacKay, Robert MacKinnon, Steven Morrison, Phil Butterfield, Fañch Bihan-Gallic (FBG)

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Item		Summary and Action	Who?	When?
1.	**Apologies**	• Kate Lewis, Stuart King		
2.	**Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**	• Minutes were approved by Barbara MacKay and seconded by Fañch Bihan-Gallic. • It was noted that the meeting date was changed from the 18th to 11th August.		
3.	**Conflicts of Interest**	• None		
4.	**Draft Financial Plan**	• The Draft Financial Plan was circulated and discussed. • Directors will review the document and MH will send to Auditors for approval before the next meeting. It is hoped to have the Plan approved before the end of the financial year.	MH	Before next meeting.
5.	**Staff Reports**	Staff Reports were circulated and tabled. **Matters Arising from Staff Reports**: **Estate Worker – Ian Strachan (IS)** • The seasonal team continue to spray invasive species across the estate. • The extent of prickly heath plant species on the estate has been better understood, these can be sprayed throughout the year. • The Growing Project continues to succeed and an Open Day will be held on Saturday 23rd August.		

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		Ranger – Drew McNaughton (DM) • DM helped out with the HVS Playscheme over several days. • A discussion took place regarding the incorporation of Gaelic in the Ranger daily activities. FBG suggested submitting a regular bi-lingual article to the De tha Dol? This was agreed. • DM has had persons interested in volunteering but finding accommodation is problematic.	DM	Fortnightly
		Site Operative – George Owens (GO) • The potholes at the Depot have been covered by CnES roads department. • It has been a busy period with skips and shop sales at the Depot.		
		Development Officer – David Wake (DW) • DW awaits a funding decision from CLLD for the replacement cabin at Urgha before proceeding. • Meavaig Housing units are in production and update photos have been received from Modular West. • The toilets at Meavaig have been well received and donations have increased. • SSE funding for the Dam track carparking has been rejected therefore the plans will have to be revisited and other funding options investigated. • Companies have been asked for quotes for the installation of solar panels on the office building. • It was suggested to install contactless payments for the CDP at Urgha and to increase the usage price to cover costs.	DW	End of season
		Manager – Michael Hunter (MH) • Finance papers were circulated and tabled. • The proposal to resume the land around Huisinis Gateway facilities, car park and hook up area with the crofters agreement was discussed. Various ideas were circulated and discussed. It was felt that more thought be given to the proposal and further conversations to be held with the crofters. It will be revisited at the next meeting.		
		• MH will contact HHP in relation to crofter access to the common grazings being omitted from the plans submitted to CnES and that the boundary cuts through the proposed retained NHT area. These issues need to be rectified before proceeding with the resumption. • Contractors intend to be onsite at Monan on 25th August for the turbine upgrade. • It was agreed to approve the sum of £15k for a new NHT vehicle.	MH	ASAP
		• A discussion took place about the best way to undertake the deer cull to meet the targets proposed by NatureScot. It was suggested to contact people in Lewis with DSC1 to gauge interest in stalking in North Harris in order to meet targets. • The Board approved the purchase of a rifle for non-toxic ammunition for MH to use.	MH	Before next meeting
		• The Cliasmol residents have contacted NHT to ask for support in their objection to the proposed purchaser of the tenancy of croft 1 Cliasmol. It was agreed to support the residents in their objection and MH will contact the grazings clerk. • The tenant of [redacted], has failed to implement the rental increase despite being asked to and also being invited to attend a meeting. The Board agreed to issue a warning	MH	ASAP

Item		Summary and Action	Who?	When?
		to the tenant to increase the monthly payments by 1st September or a termination notice will be issued. • The Board agreed to submit a letter to the Land Court at the request of the tenant of croft 1 Ardvourlie stating that NHT is in agreement with the croft boundaries registered in 2014. • A request has been received for leasing a freshwater loch for stocking fish. More information is required before a decision can be made.		
6.	**AOCB**	• FBG was thanked for his time on the Board and was wished well for his new employment in Skye. • HDL have requested a resumption from three crofts in the Scalpay School area in order to progress the development. Directors were happy to proceed on the basis that agreement from the three crofters was received in writing. • The croft tenant of 2 Ardhasaig has requested a boundary rectification of the croft. The Board agreed.		
7.	**DONM**	• Monday 15th September 2025 at 7.30pm, Tigh an Urrais		
8.	**HR Discussion (Directors Only)**	• It was agreed that timesheets should be kept by all NHT staff, and that greater resource should be dedicated to staff management.		