

## NORTH HARRIS TRUST

### MINUTE OF MEETING

**TITLE :** The North Harris Trust

**DATE :** 22:01:2024

**TIME :** 7.30pm

**VENUE :** Tigh an Urrais and Zoom

Present: Michael Hunter, Calum MacKay, Barbara MacKay, D J Morrison, Diana MacLennan, Robert MacKinnon, Paul Russ, Kate Lewis, Fañch Bihan Gallic, Finlay MacLeod, Phil Butterfield, Lena Morrison, David Wake, Tim Langley

Item	Summary and Action	Who?	When?
1.	<b>Apologies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Catriona Marshall, Kirsty MacKay</li></ul>		
2.	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Minutes were approved by Robert MacKinnon and seconded by Lena Morrison.</li><li>No matters arising.</li></ul>		
3.	<b>Conflicts of Interest</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No Conflicts of Interest were declared.</li></ul>		
4.	<b>Consultation Action Points</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Community Consultation Action Points were discussed with a number of points raised –<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Improve publicising Trust work and involvement in projects such as HHP Scott Road Housing Development and Key Worker Accommodation.</li><li>Publicise news as it happens rather than in one article.</li><li>Encourage use of Boardroom for local businesses and groups in keeping with policy.</li><li>Continue to provide services such as AIRES to relieve pressure on campervan parking.</li><li>Suggestion of erecting an advisory sign in Scalpay Village to alert campervan drivers that the road could not be suitable for vans longer than 5 meter. The legalities of erecting a sign will be clarified with CnES roads department.</li><li>It was suggested to encourage the use of public transport when at all possible.</li><li>Continue exploring ways to engage with the school staff and pupils.</li><li>Investigate ways to interact with pre-school children</li></ul></li><li>A community consultation action point document will be produced and made publicly available</li></ul>	MH  MH	ASAP  ASAP
5.	<b>Quarterly Subcommittee Reports</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Paul gave a report from the Finance sub-group and mentioned that, as in previous years, we should be conscious regarding spend at this time of year due to low lease income.</li></ul>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Insignis account has been opened.</li> <li>The Estate sub-group will meet shortly to discuss a number of matters including deer management, AECS claim and crofting matters.</li> </ul>		
6.	<p><b>Staff Reports &amp; Matters Arising</b></p> <p><b>Development Officer – David Wake(DW)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NHTC have requested a loan of £17,000 from NHT for an indeterminate period at a rate of 4% interest pa. This is line with the previous loan of £11K in 2012 for the Huisinis turbines. The remaining £15K of the cost will be met by NHTC. There will be a three-year warranty on the turbine and seven years left of the Feed in Tariff payment. The Board requested operation figures before making a decision.</li> <li>Planning Permission has been granted for the Meavaig Housing Project and the Building Warrant application has been submitted. The RHF application can't be progressed until the Building Warrant is granted and the design finalised.</li> <li>Comments were fed back to CnES including stating that NHT will not foot any overrun (over £50K) in fully-servicing the self build plots.</li> <li>DW has investigated a replacement hot drinks vending machine for Huisinis Gateway. Lavazza has quoted £5500 for a new machine that is much simpler and therefore potentially more reliable which could include a contactless payment method. The Board agreed to purchase the machine as it is both a profitable and appreciated resource.</li> <li>A quote of £40k + VAT has been received for a double toilet and shower for Ardvourlie and there would also be added costs of around £10k for groundworks. The Board felt that this cost was excessive and that it would be best to concentrate on a solution for a toilet at Meavaig carpark. DW will cost options.</li> <li>DW will submit the final grant claim for the Urgha AIRE site by the end of the month and it is hoped the site will be operational by Easter.</li> </ul> <p><b>Manager - Michael Hunter(MH)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HHP are organising a community consultation meeting, to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> February. This will allow feedback from the Tarbert community on the proposal, alongside an online survey. HHP would like some clarification on the NHT board position, specifically whether a poll would be required to inform an NHT decision, or whether the results of the planned consultation and survey will be sufficient. It was decided to await the outcome of the consultation and survey.</li> <li>CIB have confirmed that they will have the accounts completed by the 9<sup>th</sup> of February. MH will get an estimate of an AGM date from Mann Judd Gordon.</li> <li>DW has completed a Fair Work First assessment and webinar run by HIE. MH and DW took part in a 121 session with a HR Specialist. The outcome will be an action plan to improve current operations and allow NHT to demonstrate that requirements of the FWF criteria are met. It was decided to form a HR sub-group, operated in a rotation of directors. It was agreed to appoint a HR consultant from an outside agency. MH will present options at the next meeting.</li> <li>Applications have been received for the Estate Worker post and two volunteer directors will meet with MH tomorrow (Tues 23<sup>rd</sup>) to short list the applicants and decide on a suitable day and time for interview.</li> </ul>	<p>DW</p> <p>DW</p> <p>MH</p> <p>MH</p>	<p>Before next meeting</p> <p>Before next meeting</p> <p>Before next meeting</p> <p>Before the next meeting</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MH informed that NHT have withdrawn from the SSEN offer to provide a suitable area for compensatory planting. As the proposals have moved away from amenity areas of the deer forest / common grazings and onto tenanted crofts, it was felt that it was no longer appropriate for NHT to dedicate management time to the project. The Woodland Trust will now facilitate the project, mainly on in-bye crofts throughout Harris and Lochs.</li> <li>• 201 hinds have been taken from the 220 minimum target and the hind season closes on 15th February. ACE have requested an extra allocation of hinds before the season ends and this was agreed.</li> <li>• MH had previously circulated the proposed update to the Harris Forum constitution and any comments are to be returned to MH before the next Forum meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March.</li> <li>• It was agreed to oppose the proposed mains power overhead line solution to the Tom Ruisg mast site on the grounds of amenity and landscape impact.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ranger – Fañch Bihan Gallic (FBG)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FBG is awaiting one more quote before submitting the funding application for the sheiling rebuilding project.</li> <li>• A total of 13 330 trees have been planted to date.</li> <li>• FBG has built a database of Norse Placenames of Harris and is preparing maps and material for collecting as many other place names as possible from oral tradition.</li> </ul>			
7.	<b>Annual Strategic Plan Objectives Appraisal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Strategic Plan objectives were discussed and progress over the past 12 months scored by Directors.</li> </ul>		
8.	<b>AOCB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was proposed to hold this year's AGM in the Harris Hotel.</li> <li>• CMAL have postponed the Little Minch Groups meeting to be held tomorrow. (23<sup>rd</sup>).</li> </ul>		
.	<b>DONM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024</li> </ul>		