

# NORTH HARRIS TRUST

## MINUTE OF MEETING

**TITLE** : The North Harris Trust

**DATE** : 31:10:2022

**TIME** : 7.30pm

**VENUE** : Tigh an Urrais and Zoom

Present: Michael Hunter, Calum MacKay, Barbara MacKay, D J Morrison, Diana MacLennan, Robert MacKinnon, David Wake, John Macdonald, Tim Langley, Donald MacLeod, Kirsty MacKay, Lena Morrison, Paul Russ

Item	Summary and Action	Who?	When?
1.	<b>Apologies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Finlay MacLeod, Kate Lewis, Fañch Bihan Gallic</li></ul>		
2.	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Minutes were approved by Calum MacKay and seconded by Donald J Morrison.</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>Draft Financial Plan 2022 – 2025, Amendments and Approval</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Michael had previously circulated a final draft of the NHT Financial Plan and presented the plan to the meeting for approval:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Calum suggested adding Bòrd na Gaidhlig to the list of funders as they have been supportive over the years.</li><li>A core budget of £267,500 was set for the Nov 2022 – Oct 2023 financial year.</li><li>The Chair of NHTC is to receive the plan.</li></ul>The Financial Plan was proposed and approved by the Board of Directors.</li></ul>		
5.	<b>Presentation of Draft Policies, Amendments, Discussion and Approval</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A draft Financial Expenditure Policy was presented, outlining the need for an annual budget to be set in advance of each financial year, and for quarterly financial reports on progress to this budget. These quarterly reports are to be submitted to the Board of Directors by the Manager and Finance Subgroup. The policy describes how staff are to deliver core Trust work within budget but can approach the Board of Directors for further spending approval if required. Trust project expenditure requires approval by the Board of Directors and is to be recorded in the minutes. The policy was proposed and approved.</li></ul>	Michael/FSG	Quarterly

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The draft Conflict of Interest Policy, written in the context of discussions at the last board meeting, was proposed and approved.</li> <li>The draft Director Grievance Procedure, written in the context of discussions at the last board meeting, was discussed and approved.</li> </ul>		
6.	<p><b>Community Consultations, Director's Month and Community Survey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The dates and venues are set for Community Consultations during November: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Tigh an Urrais, Tim, DJ, Lena and Robert offered to attend.</li> <li>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> – Scaladale Centre, Kirsty and Paul offered to attend.</li> <li>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> – Huisinis Gateway, Calum and Barbara offered to attend.</li> <li>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Scalpay CC, Donald and John offered to attend.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The evenings will be opened by a short formal welcome, but in the main be an informal setting which will allow people to mingle and provide feedback on the Trust's operation. Display boards shall be produced to highlight aspects of the Trust's work. The meetings will be advertised on social media, in the De tha Dol? and on local radio.</li> <li>A feedback survey will also be used to gauge community opinion, the wording and content were discussed and approved. It will be distributed online, at meetings and amongst the community.</li> <li>Directors were happy for November to be designated as "Directors Month" when all Directors actively seek to engage with the community on Trust matters.</li> </ul>	<p>Directors and Staff</p> <p>Directors</p>	<p>Local area meetings</p> <p>November</p>
7.	<p><b>Staff Reports and Matters Arising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10,000 Alder trees have arrived for planting in the Lacasdail – Trolamaraig area.</li> <li>Interviews for the Graduate Marketing Assistant will take place next week. This is a six-month placement which will begin early in 2023. Although a job description has been provided for the candidates, it was suggested that a full workplan should be in place prior to interview. This was discussed, and ideas put forward for the role. It was agreed that further detail on the workplan would be undertaken in the next month or two before the successful candidate takes up the position. Michael, David and John will interview the candidates.</li> <li>CIB have notified that they are unable to act as Auditors for the Trust but can continue as accountants. Michael has received a quote from another company on the advice of CIB but the quote seems high. Calum suggested contacting Campbell Stewart MacLennan for a quote.</li> <li>Michael met with a consultant in relation to the proposed SSE overhead line. Ardhasaig Crofters are opposed but it is understood that SSE are proceeding with an application to the Scottish Ministers with respect to their statutory servitude rights therefore an agreement will need to be reached. We await our consultant's recommendations.</li> <li>The Foreshore ownership maps have been received from Crown Estate Scotland and it is hoped that these will be finalised this week. It has been advised to voluntarily register the entire foreshore with the Registers of Scotland, which will incur costs to the Trust, but will ensure clarity in the future. It was agreed to proceed with these costs if reasonable.</li> <li>NatureScot have confirmed that the General Authorisation (Deer) is applicable to the Caolas Peninsula as it is enclosed by electric fencing and tree planting is being undertaken in the area.</li> </ul>	<p>Michael</p> <p>Michael</p>	<p>ASAP</p> <p>ASAP</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussions regarding deer allocations took place with Aline Estate, Soval Estate, Reasort Estates and the Harris Stalking Club (HSC). A proposal for dividing up North Harris into areas which each party leases on a multi-annual (7-year) basis is proposed at £400 per stag for sporting leases.</li> <li>• A discussion took place about the requested Registration amendment of croft 2 Ardhasaig. There were a number of suggestions circulated but it was felt that further legal advice be sought before making a decision.</li> <li>• James Morrison was successful in securing the tenancy of croft 17 Scalpay out of nine strong applications. He shall be proposed to the Crofting Commission for their approval.</li> <li>• A meeting will be held tomorrow night (1<sup>st</sup> Nov) with HHP and Tarbert Common Grazings Shareholders to discuss the proposed Scott Road housing development.</li> <li>• A new mast site is proposed for the head of Gleann Bhiogadail, this was approved in principle subject to annual rental payments and potential access improvements.</li> <li>• Michael has negotiated the lease of the Bearragan mast site to an annual sum of £2000. This income will be shared with Cliasmol Common Grazings. This was agreed.</li> <li>• John Murdo Morrison is proposing that responsibilities for the Tarbert War Memorial be passed on to the Trust from 2023 as the Trust owns the War Memorial ground. John Murdo has been involved in the War Memorial for over thirty years.</li> <li>• CnES are proposing to submit an island-wide Gunnera treatment funding application to NatureScot.</li> <li>• CnES are revising a draft lease for the Urgha Depot site to include the issues recently raised with them.</li> <li>• The estimated cost from Fergusons to replace the office heat pump is £7000.</li> <li>• The HVS Board are looking for representatives from their member organisations, their AGM is on 4<sup>th</sup> November. Barbara agreed to stand as a Trust representative on the HVS board.</li> <li>• £85k of funding has been approved for the Urgha Aire site from the RTIF application that David submitted.</li> <li>• DMRIT has installed a video conferencing bar in the board room. £1000 funding has been approved for this from WHP Telecoms Community Benefit Fund.</li> </ul>	Michael	Before next meeting	
8.	<b>AOCB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No business to be discussed.</li> </ul>		
9.	<b>DONM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022</li> </ul>		