



MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF
THE NORTH HARRIS TRUST

MONDAY 24th FEBRUARY 2020

7.30PM – Tigh an Urrais, Tarbert

1. Apologies: Ian MacSween, DJ Morrison

Present: Calum J MacKay, Diana MacLennan, Karen MacRae, Gordon Cumming, David Wake, Michael Hunter, Barbara MacKay, Steve McCombe, Gordon Ness, Tim Langley, Robert MacKinnon, Phil Bertin, Finlay E MacLeod, Kate Lewis, Phil Butterfield, Donnie MacLeod, Kirsty MacKay, Kenny MacKay, John Henry, Andy Bartlett, Andrew Leaney, Maria Keane, Margaret Cooper, David Cooper, Paul Russ, David Philips, Calum MacAulay

2. The minutes of the previous AGM were proposed by Barbara MacKay and seconded by Tim Langley to be a true account of that meeting.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman, Calum J Mackay, welcomed everyone to the 17th Annual General Meeting of the North Harris Trust.

A copy of the previous minute and the 17th annual report were circulated to all in attendance. The Chairman's Report is included in the Annual Report and Calum highlighted a few items from his report. Once again it has been a busy year with involvement in a wide variety of projects and a lot of work going on daily. There were a couple of changes in directorship since the last AGM with Kenny MacKay and Cathy Bell Morrison resigning after many years of involvement with the Trust. Kirsty MacKay replaced Kenny as Rhenigidale representative and Kate Lewis replaced Cathy Bell as Bunavoneader to Hushinish director. Phil Butterfield joined the Board as a Scalpay representative. Calum expressed that it was good to see Kenny MacKay in attendance at the AGM and thanked him for his long service to the Trust.

It was good to see the Water Treatment plant for Hushinish, Bedersaig and Govig progressing after many years of negotiations with Scottish Water.

Tourism has been on the increase again in the past year with Husinis Gateway having a busy season.

Affordable housing has been on the Trust's agenda throughout the year with site investigations being undertaken. However, the cost of building houses in North Harris is extremely high and funding is difficult to secure in the current economic climate. The Trust will continue to investigate affordable housing.

The Trust continues to enjoy a lot of support from several organisations and agencies.

Calum finished by thanking the staff for their hard work throughout the year and the directors for their support and attendance at meetings.

4. Staff Reports

Staff reports were circulated in the 17th Annual Report and Calum invited any questions raised from the staff reports. Gordon explained the financial history graphs he had included in his report.

5. APPROVAL OF AUDITED ACCOUNTS

Calum MacDonald, CIB Services, gave a brief financial report and informed everyone that the Trust had a positive set of accounts with a clear audit trail. This reflects well on the Trust. The rental income received by the Trust is a positive figure in the context of the accounts. This was a productive year for the Trust with a strong set of accounts being presented.

Calum MacKay thanked Calum MacDonald for his work in preparing the accounts and attending the meeting.

The audited accounts were approved.

6. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

CIB Services to be retained as auditors.

7. CONFIRMATION OF DIRECTORS

There were three directors due to retire by rotation, Tim Langley remained unopposed for Tarbert as did DJ Morrison for Urgha. Ian MacSween retired as director for the Scaladale area and Paul Russ was nominated as replacement. These directors were proposed and appointed by AGM members.

9. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Maria Keane asked how the public were notified about the Trust Community Consultations and the AGM. She was informed that these meetings were widely advertised through notices on the website, social media and in the De tha Dol?. Maria suggested holding an open day or event in the Community Centre for sharing information with the public. Kate suggested attending events like the Agricultural Shows or the Craft Market with the Trusts information boards. Feedback from the community as to the timing of community consultations would be good to determine a suitable time for people wishing to attend.

Ways of regenerating businesses in the community were discussed. John Henry suggested the Trust purchase ground adjacent to the pocket of land they own by the flag pole and site business units there rather than at the gun club area at Urgha. He felt this was an ideal site for retail units. The Trust is awaiting the outcome of another proposal for this site before investigating.

Areas for potential housing was discussed with the decrofting process of when a crofter offers a house site on their tenanted croft explained. It was asked whether this process was regulated and Gordon explained that it was regulated by both the Crofting Commission and The Registers of Scotland. Compulsory croft registration when there are any changes to the croft has made the system transparent with each registered croft available to view on the Registers of Scotland website.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm