NORTH HARRIS TRUST

MINUTE OF MEETING

TITLE : The North Harris Trust

DATE : 27:08:2022 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, Fañch Bihan-Gallic, Kate Lewis

Item		Summary and Action	Who?	When?
1.	Apologies	Donald MacLeod, Finlay MacLeod, Paul Russ, Lena Morrison, Phil Butterfield		
2.	Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising	Minutes were approved by Robert MacKinnon and seconded by Calum MacKay		
3.	Draft Board Room Policy	The NHT Board Room Policy was agreed and approved by directors. The NHT Outlook calendar will be used to record meetings and Robert MacKinnon was appointed as a keyholder.		
4.	Staff Reports	 Financial papers were circulated and discussed. Michael hopes to have a draft financial plan to present at the next meeting. HIE have indicated that they are not able to fund a facilitator for a Board Healthcheck to look at the way the Trust operates. It was suggested that the relevant OSCR Best Practice Recommendations submitted to the Board in June 2021 could be revisited and used as a starting point. The OSCR Best Practice Recommendations will be updated by staff, recirculated to directors and discussed at the next meeting. Michael has submitted a job description to Napier University for a 6-month student placement as a Marketing Assistant for summer 2023. Five affidavits have been signed by local deponents for the Scalpay Foreshore Adverse Claim and have been submitted to Crown Estate Scotland by our solicitors. There remain a number of stags to be culled before the end of the season. Michael is hopeful that the target numbers will be met. A helicopter count is due to be undertaken in September/October, weather dependent. MOWI have accepted £3000 for the mast lease on Sgaoth Ridge. This will be shared with Ardhasaig Common Grazings. This was agreed and accepted by the board with the exception 	Michael	Next meeting Before next meeting

Item	1	Summary and Action	Who?	When?
		 of John Macdonald who wished it noted that he objected on the grounds of his ethical position on fish farming. It was agreed to rectify the boundaries of croft 2 Ardhasaig in favour of the current tenant but to seek legal advice on the Trust's responsibilities before doing so. Urgha Scottish Water and Ardhasaig EE mast payments have now been received, both have been outstanding for a number of years. A car parking area on 18 Scalpay will be confirmed with the croft tenant. David proposed that the hardstanding for Ardvourlie Hub is undertaken using Trust funds and the project paused until such time as further external funding becomes available. In the meantime the hardstanding could be used as an extension to the existing parking area and permit overnight parking by campers and motorhomes. The Board agreed that this was a good plan and that the work should go ahead. A discussion took place regarding the advantages and the costs of moving the current Recycling Depot to the Gun Club area. This will likely be further discussed at the upcoming NHTC Board meeting. Fañch has been kept busy with walks and various groups throughout the summer. He is working alongside the school with the growing project and will commence the Gaelic John Muir award, funded by Bôrd na Gaidhlig, in the coming weeks. Several reports of avian flu have been received and been reported to the relevant agencies. Fañch visited sheilings in Lewis for an insight into the work and costs involved in restoring traditional sheilings. 	David	By the 2023 Visitor Season
5.	AOCB	 Calum was asked by Community Land Scotland if the Trust would provide a letter of support for the Bays of Harris Buyout Ballot. The board approved. John Macdonald proposed a Creative Hub for local creative businesses, where craftspeople could come together to share workspace and resources. It would also incorporate retail space and serve as a means to draw in customers and distribute products. John suggested that groups such as HIE, an Lanntair and CnES may be interested in supporting such a Hub. Which organisation would be best placed to lead on such a project was raised, including the possibility of an SPV. Whether any suitable location could be made available was also mentioned. It was noted that Scalpay School is back on the market. Directors felt that the Trust expressing an interest is not an option as a purchase had been carefully considered and rejected some years ago. The Condition Survey on the property, carried out in 2015, will be circulated to interested Directors. 	Calum	ASAP
6.	DONM	Monday 26 th September 2022		