

NORTH HARRIS TRUST

**MINUTE OF MEETING**

**TITLE** : The North Harris Trust

**DATE** : 18:08:2014

**VENUE** : Tigh an Urrais

**TIME** : 7.30pm

Present: Calum MacKay, Tim Langley, Karen MacRae, Barbara MacKay, Kenny MacKay, Diana MacLennan, Steve McCombe, Sheila Roderick DJ Morrison, David Wake, Matt Watts

Item	Summary and Action	Who?	When?
1. Apologies	Ian MacSween, Mick Blunt, CB Morrison, Alistair MacLeod, AM Hewitt, Kenny MacLeod, John Archie MacDonald		
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting & Matters Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Minutes of the previous meeting were approved by Steve McCombe and seconded by Barbara MacKay.</li></ul> <p>[REDACTED]</p>		
3. Staff Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>Matters arising from Staff Reports</u></li></ul> <p>David informed the Board of the progress with the various ongoing NHTC projects. D Mackay has been awarded the contract for the Monan project and work began on site week beginning 11th August. The 3 turbines for the site will be commissioned by Christmas time. The local crofters have also signed a new lease with regard to Monan which increases both its term and rental cost.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A legal document has gone out to crofters with regard to the Bunavoneader hydro project. The financier will send out papers for NHT Directors to sign in the near future.</li><li>Work continues on the site for the Zero Carbon Business Units and remains on schedule.</li><li>Planning permission has been secured for the Hushinish Development which will be valid for 3 years.</li><li>As per Alistair's report the possible disposal of the Quad bike was discussed. It was felt that the decision should be deferred for a few months until Gordon starts as Land Manager and gets a better idea of our requirements.</li></ul> <p>[REDACTED]</p>		

Item	Summary and Action	Who?	When?
	<p>████████████████████</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Board agreed that they were happy for Ann-Marie to agree an entry date to Scalpay School with CNES of 25th August and an entry date for sub-tenants on the 1st September.</li> <li>The Board also approved the proposed rentals for sub-tenants which Ann-Marie detailed in her paper.</li> <li>It was agreed by the Board that the possibility of separate meters for heating and water in each of the buildings should be investigated further.</li> <li>It was agreed that Karen would approach StrathPrint for a quote to produce a Calendar for 2015.</li> <li>Matt provided an update on the plans for this year's Mountain Festival and requested volunteers to help out at the various events throughout the week. There will be a representative from The Robertson Trust coming to Harris on 17th September and they would like to meet with Matt and a Director from the Trust. Matt is also looking for a Director to volunteer to accompany him to this meeting.</li> <li>The issue of Gunnera was raised and it was agreed that the Trust should make more of an effort to discuss with CNES and other shareholders about how best to tackle the issue.</li> </ul>	<p>Diana</p> <p>Ann-Marie</p> <p>Karen</p>	<p>By next Board Meeting</p> <p>By next Board Meeting</p> <p>By next Board Meeting</p>
4.	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A monthly finance report and projected income and expenditure spreadsheet was circulated.</li> </ul>		
5.	<p><b>Deer Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The last deer count showed a severe drop in deer numbers on the estate especially in hinds. A number of meetings have been held with shareholders including the Harris Stalking Club and Amhuinnsuidhe Castle Estate. It has therefore been agreed by all parties that no hinds will be shot in this coming season after which the situation will be reviewed. The only exception to this will be the 8 hinds which need to be shot in line with our agreement with SNH for the supplementary Eagle Feeding.</li> </ul>		
6.	<p><b>Maraig Hydro</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>David informed the Board that the information for the environmental survey has been gathered and so an application for planning permission will be submitted shortly. The cost of a grid connection will be £72,000 and requires an initial payment of £12,000 to secure it as the offer is only open for 3 months. As things stand at the moment the project cost is approx £400,000. The company building the Bunavoneader hydro scheme are also interesting in building the Maraig scheme. If we were to agree to this it would mean that the only costs the Trust would need to meet is the cost of planning permission and the £12,000 to secure a grid connection. It was agreed that David would approach this company and discuss taking the project forward. The Board gave approval for David to pay the £12,000 for the grid connection. David informed the Board that the Scaladale Centre have raised concerns as they use the proposed site for the scheme for one of their popular activities. It is yet to be established how often they use the site.</li> </ul>		

Item		Summary and Action	Who?	When?
7.	<b>AOCB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A proposed route for the new Hebridean Way has been received and it was approved by the Board and Staff.</li> <li>• A request has been received from Hebrides International Film Festival for funding assistance. The Board decided that this was not something the Trust could contribute towards at the moment.</li> <li>• It was suggested that the Trust should take some action to encourage a new organisation to move to Harris and take up residence in the building in Sunnyhill which housed GSH until recently. It was agreed that we will approach Lewis Mackenzie in the first instance and tell him that we would like the building advertised more widely and in a more co-ordinated way.</li> <li>• A letter has been received from the Scottish Gov informing us of a new scheme to reduce Geese numbers in Harris and asking for permission to shoot on the Estate and inviting us to suggest any shooters who might be interested in taking part in the scheme. It was agreed that we would give permission and pass on information about the scheme to the Harris Stalking Club in case they would like to get involved.</li> </ul>		
10.	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Monday 29th September 2014, Tigh an Urrais, 7:30pm</b></li> </ul>		