

NORTH HARRIS TRUST

MINUTE OF MEETING

TITLE : The North Harris Trust

DATE : 25:05:2015

TIME : 7.30pm

VENUE : Tigh an Urrais

Present: Calum MacKay, Tim Langley, David Wake, Diana MacLennan, Barbara MacKay, Steve McCombe, Alistair MacLeod, Kenny MacLeod, John A MacDonald, Kenny MacKay, Gordon Cumming, Matt Watts, Ann-Marie Hewitt, DJ Morrison, DJ Cunningham, Donnie MacLeod, Shaun Hayes, Richard Barrett

Item	Summary and Action	Who?	When?
1.	Apologies CB Morrison, Karen MacRae, Sheila Roderick, Matt Watts, Ian MacSween		
2.	Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes were approved by Kenny MacLeod and seconded by Kenny MacKay. <u>Hushinish Common Grazings</u>: Gordon gave a brief update on the Hushinish Common Grazings situation with concerns being raised regarding internal correspondence being copied from the Crofting Commission to a neighbouring grazings and individual crofter. It was felt that this was an irregular procedure to follow and although Alistair had received an explanation regarding the error, the Trust should proceed with a formal complaint. <u>JMT Volunteers</u>: The John Muir volunteers had a very successful week with a power of work being done on the Trollamarig fenceline and also a beach clean at Buna. A barbeque was held on the Thursday night as a thanks for all their hard work. It is hoped to host another work party in September. 	Alistair	
3.	Business Units <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Syd Bolton has written requesting to be released from his lease for Business Unit 2 due to unforeseen circumstances. It was agreed to the early opt out of six months requested by Syd. The unit will need to be re advertised and a discussion took place regarding the best option to proceed. Lottery funding conditions specify that the Trust is still obliged to advertise unit 3 to attract a business and family to the island. The advert is to run for another month and it was decided to wait and see what interest there would be. There has been an interested party who meets the criteria but further engagement with her would be required in order to clarify her intentions. 		

Item		Summary and Action	Who?	When?
4.	Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Wake will take up employment with Windflow Technology on a part time basis as of 1st June and then full time from 1st September. David will be employed with the Trust for 2.5 days a week over this period where a handover will be undertaken. An overall solution needs to be discussed as to what the best way forward with the Energy Development Officer position will be. In the meantime it would be beneficial to directors to have an overview of staff salary funding and when the contracts are due for renewal. 		
5.	Land Related Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A situation has arisen where a crofter thought he had title to two areas of ground but could not present any documents as evidence of this. After researching various documents and the Trust's title plan it came to light that these areas had not been transferred to his ownership. It was suggested that the best solution would be to offer the crofter a long term Agricultural Lease of the largest area. The board agreed to this. 	Alistair	
6.	Forward Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In light of future staffing changes it was decided to hold a forward planning day similar to the one held three years ago. This would involve NHT directors and NHTC directors. Donnie MacKay suggested that Diane Campbell should be asked to facilitate and that he could also contribute. David will contact Diane to ask if she is willing to facilitate. The day should highlight which avenues the Trust need to concentrate on and what directors feel the strengths and weaknesses are. A date of 5th September was agreed. Trading Company directors felt that financial reporting to the Trading Co from the Trust was not ideal at the moment. Trust directors are given a monthly financial report at their Board meetings. It was agreed that staff will write individual reports on their workload and project status as soon as possible in preparation for the forward planning day. 	David Staff	Tomorrow ASAP
7.	Buna Hydro Legals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the moment there are six contracts ready to be signed for the Buna Hydro Scheme. Concerns were raised regarding some of the terms and legal advice was sought. The comments that were returned have been taken on board and further scrutiny will be made before the documents are ready for signature. David asked for the Board's agreement to Calum being empowered to sign the documents on behalf of the Trust once an agreement has been reached. This was agreed. Concerns were also raised regarding the monthly maintenance of the scheme. It was felt that Rivergen should be paying someone to undertake the work rather than a Trust employee being responsible. An option of the Trust withdrawing from the scheme at this stage was also raised. The Trust may consider accepting a payment from Rivergen of £70k and ground rental for 50 years It was agreed that the options of continuing to negotiate the current terms or the option of withdrawal by the Trust should be put to Rivergen at this point. 		

Item		Summary and Action	Who?	When?
8.	AOCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The tenants in the Care Unit have requested an extension to their lease until February 2016 and the Board agreed. Brenda Ford Sagers submitted plans regarding a proposed vehicular access track to the lighthouse. Alistair will discuss the matter with the Grazings Clerk. The Naked Acres Lease has been renewed for another year. 		
9.	Date of Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 22nd June 2015, 7.30pm in Tigh an Urrais 		