

NORTH HARRIS TRUST

MINUTE OF MEETING

TITLE : The North Harris Trust

DATE : 07:11:16

TIME : 7.30pm

VENUE : Tigh an Urrais

Present: Calum MacKay, Alistair MacLeod, Diana MacLennan, Barbara MacKay, Cathy B Morrison, Kenny MacKay, Tim Langley, Lorna Wheeler, Gordon Cumming, Ian MacSween, Kenny MacLeod, D J Morrison, Daryll Brown, Karen MacRae

Item	Summary and Action	Who?	When?	
1.	Apologies	Donnie MacLeod, Robert MacKinnon, D J Cunningham, John A MacDonald , Steve McCombe, David Wake		
2.	Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes were approved by Calum MacKay and seconded by Kenny MacLeod. • The upgrade of a current EE mast and the possibility of two new masts should allow better mobile and broadband coverage along the Hushinish road. • A wooden bench has been installed at Buna and a picnic table on the Rhenigidale road, both of these have been supplied by BT. There is also another bench to be located in Scalpay. The old one at the Bunavoneader viewpoint will be refurbished and placed in a location on estate land. Gordon plans to survey all benches on the estate shortly. • Kenny MacKay asked whether the Trust would be willing to take on the maintenance of the picnic area at Rhenigidale. Gordon will consider this when surveying the benches. • It was asked to inform Karen of menu choices for the Christmas dinner as soon as possible. As in previous years, partners are invited to attend and will pay for their meals. 		
3.	Staff Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordon spoke to the people concerned in unauthorised use of motocross bikes. They were very apologetic and assured him that it would not happen again. Warning signage has now been installed on most paths. • The Harris Stalking Club held their AGM on Friday 4th November. A full committee is now in place and a new constitution has been adopted. Gordon looks forward to working with the club. • Gunnera control work has been completed for this season and Gordon will write a report on his findings. Other invasive species were also discussed and Gordon would welcome any information on the areas these are spotted. <div style="background-color: black; width: 100%; height: 40px; margin: 5px 0;"></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are still awaiting CnES to install a water meter in the Scalpay Schoolhouse. 		

Item	Summary and Action	Who?	When?	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Title for the Care Unit in Scalpay should be received imminently. Once Title is received Karen can progress with the Leader and the Rural Housing Fund applications for the refurbishment. Huisinis Gateway project funding has been approved by HIE and work should commence in spring with completion hopeful in autumn. 			
4.	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The monthly finance report was circulated and finances discussed. 		
5.	Mountain Festival Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance at this year's festival was down on last year's but this was due to some events being cancelled due to bad weather. The Mountain Bike event proved popular and Daryll will look at ways to improve on this for next year. Daryll will review advertising and hopes to re instate the Mountain Festival website. It was felt it would be best to try and involve more local businesses and groups in the event as it is a Harris wide festival. Daryll will draft a letter to send out to try and gauge local interest for the event and would welcome any suggestions for improvement. The dates for next year's Mountain Festival have been set for 9th – 16th September. 		
6.	Ranger Post	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding has been secured from SNH for the Ranger Post for a year initially with the prospect of a further two years which has to be applied for annually. It was also strongly advised by SNH to source other funding avenues. Daryll will investigate this and also reapply to the Robertson Trust. ████████████████████ The guided walks have proved popular, especially the wildlife ones which Daryll hopes to improve on. He hopes to refresh the walks programme and introduce some new ideas for next year. These will include a snorkel trail, rock pooling and sea shore foraging. He will continue with beach cleans and working with the school for the John Muir Award. The information obtained from the people counters should be available for the next meeting. 		
7.	AOCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A meeting was held in the office last Friday (4th) with representatives from community groups in Harris and David Cameron of Community Land Scotland. UHI have funded a study to collate information about how community land ownership in Harris came about and will be looking for volunteers in the community to gather material. It is hoped to exhibit the audio and visual materials gathered when the project is completed with the suggesting of having the exhibition at the Mountain Festival. There will be a meeting of Western Isles community bodies in Galson on 17th November and Alistair and Calum will attend. The ballot for retiring directors will be done in the office and Alistair will inform the Board. 		
8.	Date of Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 9th January 2017 AGM – Monday 20th February 2017 		