

North Harris Trading Company Limited

Annual Report

November 2015 – October 2016

Board of Directors

Chairman
Tim Langley

Vice Chair
Shaun Hayes

Directors
Donnie MacLeod
Gordon Ness

NHT/NHTC Directors
Iain MacSween
Steve McCombe

Barbara MacKay

Company Secretary
Alistair MacLeod

Chairman's Report

Year ending 31st October 2016

It has been another successful year for the company.

In particular, the final pieces of the funding package for the Huisinis Gateway project have been secured, and so we will finally see this long-standing project become a reality. We currently expect work to begin on site in the spring.

The hydro-electric project at Bun Abhainn Eadarra has been completed and is generating electricity. Like the Monan wind turbines, this scheme will bring significant financial benefit to the community and will provide the Trust with more resources to invest in other projects.

Snagging problems at Iomairt an Obain, our business units have been resolved and the units remain fully occupied.

The company continues to operate the recycling site at Urgha, providing not only a valuable local service but also work placements for young people.

I am very grateful to David Wake for progressing all of the company's projects so efficiently, and for his patient assistance to the board.

We have appointed Gordon Ness (Scalpay) as an additional director. Gordon brings considerable commercial experience which will be of great assistance to the Board.

Finally, I thank the directors for their time and input during the year, and the North Harris Trust board and their staff for their support.

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Development Officer's Report

Year ending 31st October 2016

The North Harris Trading Company (NHTC) is the wholly-owned subsidiary of the North Harris Trust (NHT). It was established in 2003 to deliver new income streams to the Trust to allow it to expand its community development activities.

After over seven years developing a hydro-electric project at Bunavoneader, the 100kW run-of-river scheme was connected to the grid in June. Owned by River Generation Limited (RGL) – a joint venture between the NHTC and Sustainable Technology Investors Limited, the turbine has worked well through the summer and autumn. After three months of BT being unable to provide broadband to the site, the system is now fully operational with technicians being able to support the site remotely. NHT staff have been trained as first responders and to carry out regular checks.

Our plans for the next hydro-electric project at Maraig were shelved when SSE closed the grid to new generators. With no clear date for the new under-sea cable to the mainland, Directors chose to recover the significant deposits lodged with SSE for this and the earlier Loch na Ciste schemes.

After being unable to find a viable way of developing the turbine site at Outend in Scalpay, we agreed a lease with a turbine manufacturer to develop it. A 50kW Orenda machine was commissioned in July. NHT is now receiving a rent for the site.

Away from Renewable Energy, with all permissions in place, we started the hunt for funding for the Huisinis Gateway project. In April we secured £50,000 from the Community Capital Grants Fund at CnES. This was followed by £125,000 from Outer Hebrides LEADER. Finally in October, HIE awarded us £80,000, which along with NHT's own contribution, completes the funding package. A contract to redevelop the public toilets into a visitor centre with changing facilities and campervan pitches was tendered after year end.

The Iomairt an Obain development of three business units finally received its completion certificate from Building Control. Despite losing one of the first tenants, we secured a replacement and have renewed leases with each of them.

NHTC continues to operate the North Harris Community Recycling Site. This year we have been successful in securing funding for a placement from CnES. This along with another Community Jobs Scotland placement has swollen the staff compliment to 3.