

NORTH HARRIS TRUST

MINUTE OF MEETING

TITLE : The North Harris Trust

DATE : 20:05:2019

TIME : 7.30pm

VENUE : Tigh an Urrais

- Present: Calum MacKay, Gordon Cumming, Barbara MacKay, Tim Langley, Phil Butterfield, Kirsty MacKay, Kate Lewis, Ian MacSween, Finlay E MacLeod, Karen MacRae, David Wake, Michael Hunter

Calum welcomed Michael to his first Board Meeting as NHT Ranger and hopes he is enjoying his new role and settling in well to life in Harris.

Item	Summary and Action	Who?	When?
1.	Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phil Bertin, DJ Morrison, Diana MacLennan, Robert MacKinnon		
2.	Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was agreed to amend the minute from the last Board Meeting of 15th April, at item 5 to read "The directors agreed to lease the site to [REDACTED] subject to further negotiations and terms being agreed ". The minutes were approved subject to this change by Finlay MacLeod and seconded by Calum Mackay• Michael attended a 3 day first aid course 15th-17th May and Mike Scullin attended a 1 day course earlier in the month.• Karen & Michael are working on interpretation for the Scalpay Heritage path to go in the village, it was suggested to approach Bord na Gaidhlig for funding towards this.• Work has now commenced to build social housing on the former site of the Police Station in Tarbert.• Gordon and Michael attended a meeting of the Community Land Outer Hebrides Group on Tuesday 30th April in Keshader. The next scheduled meeting of the group will be in November 2019 and will be hosted by NHT		
3.	Staff Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gordon provided the Board with a verbal update on the current cashflow.• The Bank of Scotland have had a valuation carried out on the NHT office building ahead of transferring the standard security currently over Quayside across to Tigh an Urrais. Gordon will continue to negotiate with NOF, HIE and North Harris Estate Ltd to discharge their standard securities.• Dena Macleod (HHP) and Mairi Ross (Scottish Govt) visited NHT on 20th May and discussed the results of the feasibility work carried out so far in relation to the Scott Rd development. This work has been presented to [REDACTED] who own part of the proposed area for	Gordon	

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	<p>development and as a result of these discussions further work is required on the feasibility of the project and its size.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Guided walks programme is now underway with Michael having lead an Eagle walk and a walk to Sron Ulladale. • David and Kirsty will organise a meeting about the future use of the Marig Slipway once the meeting has been held in Rhenigidale to discuss the potential beach access project. • There has been a vacancy for a Scalpay Director on the Board for some time and despite advertising no candidates have come forward. It was agreed to approach the Scalpay Community Association to ask whether they would be interested in having representation on the Board. • Pete Laing has completed the feasibility work looking at the potential for creating mountain bike trails in the Ardvourlie woodland. This report was circulated and the project will be discussed at a meeting with HIE in the coming weeks. • The Mountain Festival took place between 1st-4th May and enjoyed some settled weather allowing events to go ahead. The festival ran smoothly and after settling bills the only cost to NHT is the hosting of the website. At least one couple had come across to Harris specially for the festival. A number of ideas for the festival moving forward were discussed including having events spread out all summer instead on just one dedicated week. • The Hushinish Gateway already very busy with David visiting the site at least one a week to replenish stock and collect donations. In one week earlier in the month £1600 was banked from the site. This is a marked increase on last year thanks in part to the suggested donation for a hook up being raised from £10 a month to £15. • [REDACTED] has asked if he can connect his catering trailer into the water supply for the gateway building, this was discussed and it was felt that it would be best if [REDACTED] were to get a connection from the mains as the difference in cost was only approx. £400 and it would allow NHT to maintain control of the septic tank and drainage system for the building. • Volunteers from the John Muir Trust visited Harris on 6th-10th May and carried out a vast amount of work including planting 500 trees and carrying out some path maintenance at Ardvourlie. Beach cleans at Cravadale, Traigh Mheilín, Huishinis and Beitearsaig also took place. We would like to thank these volunteers for all their hard work and look forward to welcoming them back in July. Rubbish collected from Beach cleans over the last number of years have begun to pile up in some areas and it was agreed to investigate a strategy for their removal, Michael will approach the local fish farm company to see if that might be able to assist us with this. • David, Michael and Gordon will host a group of 3rd year students from SES on 22nd May for their annual Enterprise Day. • Michael proposes to begin a regular weekly volunteering session to try and encourage more people to volunteer with NHT. It was agreed that this was a good idea and would attract people, Michael will consider the practicalities of this. • The issue of people making their way onto the site of the former Whaling Station despite there being no gate or interpretation on the site was discussed. It was agreed that there was little NHT could do about this as people were entering the site at their own risk. 	<p>David & Kirsty</p> <p>Karen</p> <p>Michael</p>	<p>By next meeting</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael is seeking Board approval to allow him to join the local retained Fire Brigade which would involve being “on call” while at work. The Board all agree that this a vital local service and approved Michaels request. 			
4.	Ardvourlie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Harris Councillors have awarded £1500 from Ward funding towards the Ardvourlie Woodland Observatory Project. A meeting was held in the Scaladale Centre on 1st May with residents to discuss the project currently proposed in the area including, the creation of mountain bike trails, the woodland observatory, affordable housing creation and a riparian woodland on the Scalaldale river. These proposals were mostly welcomed although there was concerned raised by local business owners who were concerned about the potential of direct competition in such a small area. The meeting was very productive with good feedback and discussion to move forward with. 		
5.	Campervan Fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the increase in campervans in North Harris the potential for increased revenue for NHT from donations was discussed. It was agreed to install donation posts in all parking areas provided by NHT and to also add signage explaining the role of the North Harris Trust in managing and protecting the local environment and to inform people that they can donate into the post if they wish or via PayPal. The lack of a CDP available 24/7 has been raised as the Urgha CDP is only available during the depot opening hours. It was agreed to approach CMAL ahead of their upgrade works to the Tarbert pier and marshalling area to ask if they intend to provide a CDP like those they have at their piers in Uist. If CMAL are not going to provide a CDP it was agreed that the money raised from the camper van donations posts across the Estate would be spend initially on installing a coin meter to the CDP at Urgha to allow 24/7 access for Campervans. 	Karen	
6.	AOCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A request for a funding contribution has been received from SES to allow their Science Club to attend an event in Glasgow. The Board felt that as NHT contribute to the school each year by paying for the bands and both the primary and secondary proms that they could not contribute to the cost of this trip. A meeting has been arranged to take place in Rhenigidale on Tuesday 21st May to discuss the potential of NHT becoming involved in a project to improve access to the shore. Letters have been sent to residents and crofters informing them of this and along with a feedback form should they be unable to attend. A report of a sewage smell at the Ceann an Ora houses has been received, this will be passed on to HHP to investigate. ██████████ has contacted NHT with a number of requests, firstly to collect tree seeds to set up a tree nursery, secondly for permission to satellite tag a Golden Eagle in North Harris as part of a wide project and finally permission to collect a Golden Eagle from a brood in North Harris (outwith the SPA) for a project to release golden eagles in the south of Scotland. ██████████ 	Karen	

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		has already attained a license to do this. The Board agreed to all three requests in principle providing NHT is acknowledges for its participation in these projects. Gordon will discuss the details further with [REDACTED] directly.	Gordon	
7.	DONM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 24th June 2019 in Tigh an Urrais at 7.30pm 		