

NORTH HARRIS TRUST

MINUTE OF MEETING

TITLE : The North Harris Trust

DATE : 15:04:2019

TIME : 7.30pm

VENUE : Tigh an Urrais

- Present: Calum MacKay, Gordon Cumming, Diana MacLennan, Barbara MacKay, Robert MacKinnon, Tim Langley, Phil Bertin, Robert MacKinnon, Donnie MacLeod, Phil Butterfield, Kirsty MacKay, Kate Lewis, Ian MacSween, D J Morrison, Finlay E MacLeod, Karen MacRae, David Wake

Calum asked Kate if she would kindly pass on a gift to Daryll as he has left the Trust and started his new job at Borve Lodge. Calum expressed best wishes to Daryll in his new job.

Item	Summary and Action	Who?	When?
1.	Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Donnie MacLeod, Phil Bertin		
2.	Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minutes were approved by Barbara MacKay and seconded by Tim Langley.• Interviews for the Ranger position took place on Thursday 4th April, with 4 candidates being interviewed. Michael Hunter was offered the post and has accepted and will commence employment on Monday 22nd April.• Mike Scullin, who has volunteered on the guided walks for a few years has offered to continue to do so when Michael starts. Gordon has booked Mike onto a one day first aid course and Michael onto a three-day course in May.• Scalpay Community Association are not willing to release the suggested parking area but would appreciate any help in tidying up the area. They have suggested an alternative parking area in the village.• There has been no progress or update on the former Police Station housing since the last meeting.• [REDACTED] are still investigating the areas at Lacasdale Lochs and Arvdourlie for development.• Viv Halcrow held a tree planting workshop in the NHT office and left a donation for the use of the office. Gordon was in attendance.• There has been no progress on the parking issues outside the office.		

Item	Summary and Action	Who?	When?	
3.	Staff Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cashflow spreadsheet was circulated and discussed. • The design report for the Ardvourlie Mountain Bike Trails & Woodland Park is expected soon from Pete Laing. It was decided it was not realistic to submit an application to the Natural & Cultural Heritage Fund as the deadline was tight. Gordon, Karen, Daryll & Kate met with officers of CnES and HIE to discuss the 'Ardvourlie Park' project proposal. They were positive and suggested there was the possibility of supporting further feasibility work in relation to the project. As an individual has expressed an interest in opening a café in the area directors agreed not to include a café in the NHT design. • Gordon and David will meet with residents in the next couple of week to inform them of these proposals and gauge interest and ideas. • Bank of Scotland have agreed to transfer their security over Quayside Cottages for a fee. The Board agreed to proceed with this transfer. • NOF and HIE have also been asked to discharge their standard securities and responses have been positive. There is still no clarity over the North Harris Estate Ltd security and Gordon has asked our solicitors to investigate. • Directors agreed to proceed with the sale of Quayside Cottages once these matters have been dealt with. • Gordon has been approached by the proprietor of [REDACTED] requesting to purchase a strip of land in the middle of Tarbert. They have land adjacent to this area which they plan to develop. Calmac have also requested a lease on this area while they undertake ferry terminal improvements. The Board agreed to continue negotiations with [REDACTED] and are willing to sell the land at market value. • There has been no further contact from HHP and HIE regarding the housing development at Scott Road. Gordon made clear that NHT are not in a position to lead on the project but are keen to support the other parties involved. No meeting of all parties involved has taken place yet. • Gordon has not received the figures for the deer count from SNH yet but has had a rough indication of numbers. This will be discussed once the accurate figures have been received. • The Gunnera Feasibility Report was submitted to SNH in March and as an outcome of this NHT was asked to submit an application to the Biodiversity Challenge Fund. The application was for funding to run the Western Isles wide Gunnera eradication programme. It was felt that the burden for the Western Isles should not be solely on NHT and the deadline for submission was tight, therefore the decision was made that the Trust would not apply at this point. It will be discussed at the next Community Land Outer Hebrides Group meeting and the Trust will continue to work closely with SNH to move an eradication project forward. • Twelve applications for the tenancy of flat 2 were received with Beth Shannon and Calum Bennett securing the tenancy after scoring highest on the points system used. • The Eagle Walks will commence at the beginning of May with Robin Reid, RSPB, offering to help out until the Ranger settles in. A booking system will be in operation for this year's walks. • Mick Blunt and Isi Oakley have agreed to lead the high-level walks at the Mountain Festival. • It was decided not to do a print run of the information leaflets we have as it is so costly. Kate 	Gordon & David	Before next meeting

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	<p>suggested displaying leaflets and information in the display board in the carpark. This will be done and all information will be on the website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rivergen have informed David that they are preparing an exit plan for late 2019 for the Buna Hydro Scheme which could mean the scheme could be refinanced or sold. • David and Kirsty will organise a meeting with Marig Slipway users soon. • Summer hours at the depot will begin at the end of the month. It was decided that the depot will close at 4pm on Saturdays. There are possibilities of both OHMEET and CJS placements at the depot in the coming months. 	David & Kirsty		
4.	Ardvourlie Observatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A decision was required as to whether the Trust were willing to meet the £11645 shortfall towards the Ardvourlie Woodland Observatory project. Funding has been secured from Leader and MCWFT. Barbara suggested that a sum could be donated from the Trading Company towards the project and the Trading Company directors present agreed that this was possible. The proposal will be discussed at the next Trading Company meeting. The majority of directors agreed that the shortfall should be met to allow the project to proceed. 		
5.	Huisinis Gateway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] has approached the Trust with a proposition to take on the running of the Hushinish campervan site. [REDACTED] was willing to meet the HMRC requirements and to pay the amount received by the Trust in donations from the site last year. The directors agreed to lease the site to [REDACTED] on these terms. 		
6.	AOCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next meeting of the Community Land Outer Hebrides Group will meet on Tuesday 30th April in Keshader and directors are welcome to attend. • Directors intending to attend the SNH event at Talla na Mara should let SNH know. • The next meeting of the Harris Forum will be on Tuesday 23rd April at the CnES office in Tarbert at 7.30pm. Anyone who wishes to attend should let Gordon know. • The JMT volunteers will be with NHT at the beginning of May and the usual barbeque will be hosted. • Calum has been approached by Two Rivers Media about representing the North Harris Trust in a documentary about community land ownership for the new BBC Scotland channel. They were also looking for businesses and individuals who have benefited from the Trust and Calum has arranged these. 		
7.	DONM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday 20th May 2019 in Tigh an Urrais at 7.30pm 		