

NORTH HARRIS TRUST

MINUTE OF MEETING

TITLE : The North Harris Trust

DATE : 04:03:2019

TIME : 7.30pm

VENUE : Tigh an Urrais

Present: Calum MacKay, Gordon Cumming, Diana MacLennan, Barbara MacKay, Donnie MacLeod, Robert MacKinnon, Tim Langley, Phil Bertin, Robert MacKinnon, Donnie MacLeod, Phil Butterfield, Kirsty MacKay, Kate Lewis, Ian MacSween, D J Morrison

Calum welcomed Kate Lewis, Kirsty MacKay and Phil Butterfield to the Board and thanked Cathy Bell and Kenny MacKay for their service and input as directors over the years.

Calum had offered the Board's support and sympathy to Galson Trust on the recent loss of their office building due to a fire.

Item	Summary and Action	Who?	When?
1. Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Finlay E MacLeod, Karen MacRae, David Wake, Daryll Brown		
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Minutes were approved by Phil Bertin and seconded by Phil Butterfield.The missives for Scottish Water, Urgha have been received by our solicitors and Isabel has spotted an issue regarding the terms offered. Isabel will negotiate further.Work has yet to commence on the former Police Station and no updates have been received.Gordon asked Kirsty whether she would be willing to accompany him to meet with residents in the Marig/Rhenigidale areas to discuss the future use of Marig slipway and beach access at Rhenigidale. Kirsty is willing to attend and they will meet with residents at the beginning of April.The proposed parking area at Scalpay will be discussed at the next Scalpay Community Association meeting.		
3. Appointment of Office Bearers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Tim Langley proposed Calum as Chairman and was seconded by Ian MacSween.Ian MacSween proposed Tim Langley as Vice Chair and was seconded by DJ Morrison and both directors accepted these positions.		
4. Appointment of Trust Directors on Trading Company	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Barbara, Tim and Ian will represent the Trust on the Board of the Trading Company.		

Item	Summary and Action	Who?	When?
5. Staff Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cashflow spreadsheet was circulated and discussed. • The Distillery have requested permission to carry out topographical survey work and test holes at Lacasdale Lochs and Ardvourlie later this month. The Board agreed and the Grazings concerned will be contacted separately by the Distillery. • Frank Smart has been in contact regarding the lease of Seasonal Grazings. It was felt that as the sum offered was considerably lower than in previous years that Gordon would contact him offering the lease at the same terms as last year. We will await a response to see if this is acceptable and consider withdrawing from the lease agreement if not. • Gordon met with Alasdair Allan, MSP, to discuss various concerns he has including the moorland management outstanding payment. • A business plan needs to be produced before the Stock Club idea can be progressed further. • Funding has been secured from Leader, Muaitheabhal Community Wind Farm Trust and JMT for the Ardvourlie Woodland Observatory but there is a shortfall of £15000 to be met. This amount could be reduced by claiming VAT back. Other funding avenues are being investigated but the Board were asked if they are willing to underwrite the shortfall to secure the funding in the meantime. This was agreed and the Board will be updated on progress. A few funding sources were mentioned including Prince's Countryside Trust Fund and the Western Isles Lifestyle Lottery. • There have been 10 applications received so far for Flat 2, Tigh an Urrais. Karen had circulated a scoring sheet for allocation and any feedback from directors is welcome. A subcommittee of directors will meet on Wednesday 13th at 4.30pm to score the applications and allocate the flat. 		
6. Quayside Cottages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have received a valuation of the properties and a basic survey report. The survey indicated that substantial financial investment would be required to bring the two houses up to modern standard. It was decided that the Trust should not go ahead with major improvements. • The preferred option would be to sell the properties. It was agreed that any money from the sale of housing stock should be ring-fenced for funding further house building projects. • If the properties were sold, it was agreed that Cottage 1 along with the associated peat store be offered to the current tenant at the valuation price. • It was agreed that Cottage 2 be placed on the open market. (It was felt that criteria for determining the eventual purchaser should be agreed prior to sale). • It was agreed that the large store and the deer larder could also be sold since they are of no great value to the Trust. However, it is difficult to see what alternative use could be made of these due to the structure and location of the buildings. • The eventual decision with regard to the sale of the above properties will depend on planning and progress with the proposed Ardvourlie Housing Development. • It was also noted that Standard Securities are in place over these properties and these would need to be removed or moved elsewhere before a sale could proceed. 		

Item	Summary and Action	Who?	When?	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Trading Company has been asked to investigate options for funding the proposed Ardvoirie housing project and report back to the Board of NHT. Initial costings have been received along with some potential sources of funding. 			
7.	AOCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gordon attended a meeting of the Harris Forum where projects from the Our Plan for Harris were prioritised for the new HDL Development Officer who starts work on the 24th March. This role is determined by the projects that were included in the Plan. Viv Halcrow has requested to hold a course in tree planting in the office and is willing to pay for the use. This led to a discussion regarding other groups using the office and it was felt that groups should be asked for a donation for use of the meeting room. A letter was received from CnES regarding the funding of a Gaelic student placement at Seallam. It was agreed that the Trust couldn't contribute to this placement currently. A request has been received from the owners of Taste n Sea for a contribution towards the installation of toilets at their business. This was considered to be relevant to the Community Development Fund, which is currently closed, but they are welcome to apply when it opens again. The lack of parking along from and outside the office was discussed and it was suggested to speak to the neighbouring properties and the Councillors to try and find a solution. Parking in Tarbert during the summer season is an issue and should be included in Our Plan for Harris. 		
10.	DONM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 15th April 2019 in Tigh an Urrais at 7.30pm 		