

NORTH HARRIS TRUST

MINUTE OF MEETING

TITLE : The North Harris Trust

DATE : 24:06:2019

TIME : 7.30pm

VENUE : Tigh an Urrais

- Present: Calum MacKay, Gordon Cumming, Diana MacLennan, Barbara MacKay, Robert MacKinnon, Tim Langley, Phil Bertin, Robert MacKinnon, Kirsty MacKay, Ian MacSween, D J Morrison, Karen MacRae, David Wake, Michael Hunter

Item	Summary and Action	Who?	When?
1.	Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kate Lewis, Phil Butterfield, Finlay E MacLeod, Donnie MacLeod,		
2.	Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minutes were approved by Robert MacKinnon and seconded by Barbara MacKay.• No response has been received from efforts to recruit a director for Scalpay. It was suggested that the Community Council be approached to see if they wished to have a representative on the Board but the Trust's memo and arts would need to be checked first.• There has been no recent update on the Scott Road housing development.• Karen contacted HHP regarding the sewage smell at the houses at Ceann an Ora. This was investigated and it was found that a lid on one of the tanks had come off. The lid was replaced and hopefully this will solve the issue.		
3.	Staff Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The cashflow spreadsheet was circulated and discussed.• No payment or update has been received from Scottish Water for the Urgha site since the last meeting.• Negotiations between Maggie at Anderson MacArthur and EE are ongoing for mast site payments.• Gordon is making good progress in removing/transferring securities on the Quayside Cottage properties with HIE agreeing to discharge their security across the estate and Bank of Scotland in the process of transferring their security to Tigh an Urrais. The National Lottery and North Harris Estates Ltd are yet to confirm.• A letter has been received from [REDACTED] The facts in the letter were given to support a claim that he was misled by staff into thinking that NHT would sell the remaining properties to ACE directly and him the store for a workshop. Staff categorically deny this was agreed and the Board are supportive of their facts. Calum will write a response to the individual on behalf of the Board.• Gordon had circulated a paper in relation to the Harris Forum seeking the Board's opinion regarding introducing a tourist levy. Cllr Mitchell had written the paper and it is now an action point to seek opinions from various groups. It was agreed that the Board did support the levy in	Calum Gordon	Next Harris Forum

Item	Summary and Action	Who?	When?	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael has requested a period of unpaid annual leave to undertake Army Officer training at Sandhurst. The Board felt that the period between 28th September and 23rd November would be most suitable and fit in better with the Ranger contract renewal from SNH. • Karen will send a letter to the Rhenigidale residents and crofters to inform them of the outcome of the questionnaire issued in relation to beach access. There will be no further involvement from NHT in the matter unless the community as a whole are in agreement. • The Board agreed to allocate 30 stags to ACE and 10 to the stalking club. The hinds will be allocated once the deer count map data has been received from SNH and professional advice has been sought regarding figures to cull. • A discussion took place regarding suggestions to make the Ardvourlie Woodland bike trails project viable. It would be difficult to secure funding via HIE when the commercial aspect has been removed. It was decided to wait until the Woodland Observatory has been completed, visitor numbers assessed and other funding options considered before continuing with the project. 	Karen		
4.	John Muir Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JMT have offered a presence on the Board by staff members attending meetings twice yearly. The Board agreed that this would be beneficial and the focus would be on Land Management and fundraising. • The NHT/JMT Memorandum of Understanding will be signed when Sandy is here with the volunteers in July. 		
5.	Crofting and Land Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was decided to reinstate the Crofting and Land sub group rather than have arising matters discussed at a full Board meeting. A meeting will be held on Monday 1st July at 6pm with Calum, Phil, DJ and Ian attending. 		
6.	AOCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adrian Hollister, photographer, will be visiting Harris during the week 23rd to 29th October and asked whether a representative from NHT would attend a dinner to inform them of the Trust's work. David will attend. • The air source heat pump for flat 1 has broken and needs replaced. This will be quite costly and Gordon is investigating the best option. • Gordon will attend a Community Engagement Planning meeting in Stornoway on Thursday. • The lack of a Tourist Information Centre in Tarbert is becoming an issue with more visitors coming into the office for information. It was suggested that these concerns be raised at the next Harris Forum meeting. • NHT will feature on a programme on BBC Scotland tomorrow night at 9pm – Children of the Devolution. 	Gordon	
7.	DONM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday 19th August 2019 in Tigh an Urrais at 7.30pm 		