

NORTH HARRIS TRUST

MINUTE OF MEETING

TITLE : The North Harris Trust

DATE : 20:01:2020

TIME : 7.30pm

VENUE : Tigh an Urrais

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

Item	Summary and Action	Who?	When?
1.	Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Calum Mackay, Ian MacSween, Phil Bertin		
2.	Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minutes were approved by Kirsty MacKay and seconded by Finlay E MacLeod• Gordon contacted Anderson MacArthur regarding the Crown Estate map options and Isabel is seeking further legal advice.		
3.	Staff Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The cashflow spreadsheet was circulated and discussed.• The final map for the Quayside properties is expected imminently. Once received and approved the properties can be advertised and sold.• [REDACTED]• Gordon is happy with the repair work undertaken on the Rhenigidale path.• The bridge at Garry Lotageir is in danger of collapsing and Angus Williams has been appointed as contractor for the repairs.• The grant funding has been received from Muathaibheal for the Ardvourlie Woodland Observatory.• Karen identified that the garden ground area in Scalpay in need of improvement is part of Croft 20.• Barbara mentioned that members of the public had approached her regarding the gate at the Woodland Observatory not working. The matter is in hand.• Michael has a good response from his tree planting advert with several volunteers signing up.• Michael gave a breakdown of proposed expenses for this year's Mountain Festival and has applied to Bòrd na Gaidhlig for funding. Michael suggested a band from Skye, Iron Midden, for the ceilidh and the Board agreed.• Michael provided further information regarding the Rural Skills Course at SES and the Board agreed that Michael should be involved.• It is hoped to hold a couple of beach cleans in March. This will be confirmed nearer the time.		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applications have been submitted to the Biodiversity Challenge Fund for two projects, Rewilding North Harris and Gunnera Eradication Project 2020. Two locations have been suggested for the rewilding project, the area South of the existing planting enclosure at Glen Meavaig and an area alongside the Lacasdale Lochs footpath. 			
4.	Bunavoneader Hydro Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The opportunity has arisen to purchase the Hydro Scheme at Bunavoneader. As West Harris Trust have a similar scheme it was felt to be of benefit to work alongside them and submit a joint offer for both schemes. The initial offer was rejected and Rivergen have come back with more information. Savills have been given this information and will re-evaluate and prepare a revised offer price. If Rivergen accept the offer there will be a three-month due diligence period. A CARES grant will be applied for to cover costs for accountants, consultants and solicitors' fees. Advice will be sought from Energy for All regarding the community shares option. We will await a response and come back to Directors when received. The Trust has made no financial commitment at this stage. 		
5.	Community Consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 meetings were held throughout the Estate in December and some were better attended than others. Gordon has compiled a paper on the feedback from the meetings and this was discussed. It was decided to publicise the feedback in order to make the community aware of the outcome of the meetings and to try to engage more people in the work of the Trust. Gordon will prepare an article for the De tha Dol?. 	Gordon	Next De tha Dol
6.	Harris Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Money has become available to the Harris Forum which is to be allocated towards Community Projects, Infrastructure, Assistance with group governance (for the Forum). Costed projects are to be submitted to the Forum by 31st January for the Forum meeting on the 4th February. The Forum will choose projects which will be submitted to CnES by 31st March 2020 and to be completed by 30th September 2020. The projects decided by NHT staff are Lacasdale Lochs Community Footpaths (funding for materials and labour costs), housing feasibility studies in North Harris, business space at the Gun Club area, parking at Outend Scalpay, parking at Hushinish and webcams at Hushinish and Tarbert. Gordon and Karen have made other parties who have approached the Trust for assistance in the past aware of the fund. A suggestion of a toilet block at Ardvourlie was made but it was felt that this would require a large amount of finance and this particular fund wasn't suitable. The Harris Forum will be a regular agenda item. 	Gordon	By 31 st Jan
7.	Rotation of Directors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vacancies arising from this year's annual rotation of directors are Urgha to Glen Carrageich, Bowglas, Tarbert, Scaladale & Ardvourlie and Scalpay. These vacancies have been advertised with a closing date of Friday 24th January. Ian MacSween has notified Gordon that he wishes to retire as director for the Scaladale area and will stand down at the AGM. 		

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8.	Preparation for AGM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AGM will be held in Tigh an Urrais on Monday 24th February. Directors will meet with Calum MacDonald to approve the accounts at 7pm, prior to the main meeting at 7.30pm. The format of the evening will be as previous years. 		
9.	AOCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gordon will be taking part in the interviews for the new JMT Ranger post on Friday. There has been a lot of interest in the post and 5 candidates will be interviewed. The Community Land Scotland Outer Hebrides Group require a decision by the end of the month on whether they should become a constituted body. Gordon will email the document to directors and requested responses as soon as possible. 	Directors	ASAP
10.	DONM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGM Monday 24th February 2020 in Tigh an Urrais at 7.00pm to approve accounts. AGM – 7.30pm. Monday 23rd March 2020 @ 7.30pm in Tigh an Urrais 		