

# NORTH HARRIS TRUST

## MINUTE OF MEETING

**TITLE** : The North Harris Trust

**DATE** : 16.11.2020

**TIME** : 7.30pm

**VENUE** : Zoom

- Present: Calum MacKay, Barbara MacKay, Robert MacKinnon, Kirsty MacKay, Phil Butterfield, Paul Russ, Finlay E MacLeod, D J Morrison, Phil Bertin, Michael Hunter, Karen MacRae

Item	Summary and Action	Who?	When?
1.	<b>Apologies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tim Langley, Diana MacLennan, David Wake, John Maclean</li></ul>		
2.	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minutes were approved by Barbara Mackay and seconded by Kirsty MacKay</li><li>• It was noted that the engineering survey has been carried out on the Marig slipway ground and we await the results. The engineer was informed of the possibility of the site being considered for housing development in the future so this should be accounted for in the report.</li></ul>		
3.	<b>Staff Reports</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A desktop valuation was sought for the 2 affordable housing units to be built in Meavaig. This came back as £100,000 for the 2 bedroom property and £115,000 for the 3 bedroom property. This when compared with the cost of the project in the feasibility study it would result in a significant loss in capital and asset value. This was discussed and it was agreed that the main aim of this project is not financial gain and providing affordable housing is essential to reinvigorating our villages.</li><li>• The role of John Muir Trust Ranger is to come to an end in March 2021. Michael has spoken with Richard Williams JMT with a view to possibly extending the post by 6 months. This would be of great help in assisting with guided walks and the estate maintenance teams over the summer months. It has been suggested that the North Harris Trust and West Harris Trust could contribute £2500 and John Muir Trust £4000 towards this extension if the remaining £6000 could be secured from the Crown Estate Fund. The Board approved this £2500 contribution in principle, dependent on the outcome of the Crown Estate Fund application.</li><li>• The 2020 Gunnera report has been submitted to Nature Scot along with an application for 50% of project costs.. A PA6 sprayer training course is due to take place in the coming weeks and is fully subscribed with 2 NHT staff, 1 WHT staff, 2 Contractors (Norserv) and 1 Volunteer/Contractor.</li><li>• Little progress has been made in recent weeks with either the Foreshore claim or the BT mast issue due to Solicitors workload.</li><li>• The two parcels of land adjacent to Hotel Hebrides [REDACTED]</li></ul>		

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	<p>The Board are not willing to accept this offer and as has been the case in the past NHT will require the market value price for any land sold.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Crofting Commission has acted to terminate the tenancy [REDACTED] at 2 Ardhasaig, the order will come into effect on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. It was discussed that as the Landlord the Trust will select the next tenant for the croft. This will require an application process and a subgroup of 3 Directors for the selection process. The members of this subgroup will be decided upon at the next Board Meeting. It was agreed that Michael will inform the other Ardhasaig Crofters of the situation as a matter of courtesy.</li> <li>We await a response from Scottish Salmon Company as to their plans for the future of the Adhuinssuidhe Hatchery. The area is currently owned by the Trust; however, a Title burden states that it must only be used for fish farming and relevant ancillary purposes only. If otherwise for more than three years, it must be offered to ACE at 'open market value' as determined by valuation.</li> <li>Kate Lewis has volunteered to lead a North Harris Trust Youth Group with support from the Ranger Service. The Youth Group is to be affiliated with Lewis and Harris Youth Club Association to allow outdoor activities to take place and the use of the Scaladale Centre. It is hoped this group will help engage more of our young people with the Trust. The possibility of linking this group to the Rural Skills course was also discussed.</li> <li>David is to work with Scaladale Centre towards advancing the project to create mountain bike trails in Ardvoirie. A recent call with HIE about the project was very positive and with multimillion pound fund being announced by Sport Scotland which could fund a large part of the £830,000 project it was agreed that now is a good time to move forward with this project.</li> </ul>	Michael	By next meeting	
4.	<b>Meavaig Affordable Housing Project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per the last meeting Alasdair MacLeod has been approached and is willing to take on the role as project manager/coordinator. It has been agreed that Alasdair will draw up his own design for the properties in consultation with NHT. Alasdair will then acquire quotes for the materials and tradespeople required to allow funding applications to be submitted.</li> </ul>		
5.	<b>Crown Estate Funding Applications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working to the very tight timescales NHT Staff have identified a number of potential projects that could be submitted to CNES in this next round of Crown Estate Funding. It was agreed that Staff would work to submit applications for the 6-month extension to the JMT Ranger role, improved parking at Scalpay, footpath work at the Lacasdale lochs and funding towards feasibility work at the former gun club ground. The closing date for applications is Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020.</li> </ul>		
6.	<b>AOCB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>		
7.	<b>DONM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>14<sup>th</sup> December 2020</b></li> </ul>		