

NORTH HARRIS TRUST

MINUTE OF MEETING

TITLE : The North Harris Trust

DATE : 16:06:2021

TIME : 7.30pm

VENUE : Zoom

- **Present:** Calum MacKay, Barbara MacKay, Kirsty MacKay, Michael Hunter, Phil Butterfield, Finlay E MacLeod, Kate Lewis, Donald MacLeod, D J Morrison, Robert MacKinnon, Diana MacLennan, Richard Williams, Clara Risi

Calum welcomed Richard Williams, Operations Manager JMT & Clara Risi, Ranger JMT, to the meeting.

Item	Summary and Action	Who?	When?
1.	Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phil Bertin, Donnie MacLeod, Paul Russ, Tim Langley		
2.	Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minutes were approved by Finlay E MacLeod and seconded by Calum MacKay• The Urgha Depot continues to work on reduced hours due to the ongoing skip supply issue.		
3.	JMT Ranger <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clara gave the Board an update on her work activities and talked through her report. Calum expressed appreciation to the John Muir Trust for funding support for the Ranger post which has been extended until October.• Richard conveyed that JMT would be up for a discussion for the continuation of the post but no commitment could be made currently.		
4.	Visitor Management <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Richard Williams, JMT, informed the Board of his experience of visitor management throughout John Muir properties.• Funding has been approved for a Harris Warden Team and the 3 posts have been advertised. It is hoped to have wardens in position at the beginning of July and the posts will run until October. JMT have prepared a visitor survey which the wardens will be able to undertake as part of their visitor management duties.		
5.	Land Management Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Richard had shared the Skye Property Management Plan with the Board and the plan was discussed.• The NHT Management Plan was discussed and requires to be updated. It was felt it might be beneficial in funding applications to have an updated plan with structure and targets. Barbara suggested that a working document which can be added to might be best. JMT are happy to share their plan.		

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6.	Atlantic Bluefin Tuna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael presented a paper stating NHT's response to the speculated Atlantic bluefin tuna fishing. The Board agreed and approved the statement that NHT do not support Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Sport Fishing from the Western Isles. 		
7.	Good Practice Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael and David had circulated a paper in relation to good governance which arose after analysis of OSCR recommendations for best practice for Charity Trustees. The paper will be discussed at the next meeting. 	All	Next Meeting
8.	Staff Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gunnera spraying is well underway with most of North Harris being covered. Nature Scot have offered 50% of match funding on the basis that the entirety of Harris is covered. It is proposed to carry out treatment in South Harris between July-September with the help of WHT. An approach has been received from the factor of Scarp that the owner has requested that 50 brown trout be taken from either Loch Chliostair or Loch na Cair and transported to Scarp. Nature Scot have been asked for permission and have replied that they did not object. Michael felt that Loch Chliostair was suitable and the Board agreed. It is recommended to allocate 20 stags in the Eastern beat to the HSC to relieve pressure on the crofts/gardens which had marauding stag issues over the winter. Michael & Linda, WHT, have had issues with the Harris Forum and intend to send a letter to meet with the Chairman to discuss these issues. They had prepared a draft letter and this was discussed and recommendations were made. Michael will recirculate the letter for directors approval before sending. It was agreed that Scalpay Community Association pay the legal fees for the Resumption for Scalpay Community Centre as the Trust have consented to releasing the areas to be resumed for no charge. It was agreed that a Quad is an essential piece of equipment for estate maintenance and a new quad should be purchased. A quote of £496k was received from CalMax Construction for the housing at Meavaig. Alasdair MacLeod is yet to submit his quote. David will contact Alasdair to ask for quotes for the next meeting. An Expression of Interest has been made through CnES to the ScotGov Regeneration Capital Grant Fund for the Ardvourlie Outdoor Hub and David has proposed in the application that the NHT contribution be £25k. The Board approved. The Trading Co are looking into removing the Trust's interest in Constantine Wind Energy at Monan. The blades on the turbine are due to be replaced imminently. Due to the ongoing skip issue at the Depot It was asked whether it would be possible for the Trust to secure funding for a skip rather than wait for CnES to provide new skips. David will investigate. Kate MacLeod has undertaken the Caretaker position at Huisinis Gateway and is managing well. 	<p>Michael</p> <p>David</p> <p>David</p>	<p>Next Meeting</p>

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AOCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gifts will be given to DJ & Karen as a token of appreciation for their work at NHT. • Barbara suggested sending a letter of congratulations from the Trust to Catherine Campbell, Harris Tweed, on her receiving an OBE. • Calum thanked Richard and Clara for attending the meeting. 		
DONM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday 12th July 2021 		