

NORTH HARRIS TRUST

MINUTE OF MEETING

TITLE : The North Harris Trust

DATE : 11:10:21

TIME : 7.30pm

VENUE : Tigh an Urrais and Zoom

- Present: Michael Hunter, Calum MacKay, Barbara MacKay, Robert MacKinnon, Donnie MacLeod, D J Morrison, Paul Russ, Diana MacLennan, David Wake, Kirsty MacKay, Phil Butterfield

Item	Summary and Action	Who?	When?
1.	Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finlay MacLeod, Donald MacLeod, Kate Lewis, Tim Langley		
2.	Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minutes were approved by Donnie MacLeod and seconded by Calum MacKay		
3.	Staff Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clara left her role as Ranger but has circulated a comprehensive report on the work undertaken while she was in Harris.• The wardens and maintenance team members are also due to finish at the end of the month. Michael has spoken to staff involved and they are all understanding of the situation.• Michael met with Stevie Passmore from the Distillery to discuss safeguarding the water source used. They walked the water intake line and Stevie will return with proposed plans.• The Tarbert Director vacancy will be advertised in the next De tha Dol.• £70 000 has been awarded from The Net Zero Tourism fund towards the Ardvourlie Hub. This will fund installing mains electricity, EV charger, start the resumption of the facilities building site, carry out a topological survey and complete all the design work. The application to the Regeneration Capital Growth Fund for £400 000 was unsuccessful.• It has been established that the Old Hostel carpark at West Tarbert is in CnES ownership. David has been corresponding with CnES and had submitted an Expression of Interest with a view to purchase the site for social housing. David brought SoloHaus modular buildings to the Board's attention which could be a solution, subject to planning approval. He awaits a response from CnES.• It was proposed to close the showers in Huisinis Gateway over the winter but to leave the Gateway building and toilets open.• Michael and David will meet with the Hushinish crofters to discuss the Huisinis Gateway campervan sites.• The surveyor has been asked to provide a topographical survey with a view to level and surface the old car park area at the Gun Club. As the ground is not suitable for traditional		

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	<p>building the option of relocating the recycling site using structures like containers and portacabins is being explored.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New donations posts have been received and one will be installed at the Marig viewpoint, it was suggested to install one at the second Urgha car park. • Official termination of the Amhuinnsuidhe Hatchery lease has been received from the Scottish Salmon Company. • Donnie will represent the Trust at a meeting to be held with other Harris groups and the CnES Leader to discuss future management of campervans visiting the island. • Michael has commenced work on the North Harris Native Habitat Restoration project and has contacted and met with some of the Common Grazings. Urgha and Carragrieach are supportive and willing to become involved, Kyles have expressed reservations and a meeting with Scalpay CG will be held later this month. Donnie will attend the Scalpay CG meeting as Michael holds a conflict of interest as a CG shareholder. Michael will send Kyles CG the final proposal to allow them to determine whether they wish to be involved in the project. It was suggested to publicise the project in the local press. • Michael has contacted SSE regarding the land behind the North Harris Medical Practice. Mairi MacIver, CLD at CnES, had been in contact regarding an area for a youth hub and it was felt that this area would be ideal. Most of the £3000 awarded by YPI is still held in the Trust accounts, which could contribute towards the project, with other funding sources to be sought. Michael had suggested a polytunnel and a tree nurse and Mairi agreed. Michael has since contacted the Woodland Trust about the proposal, who were very supportive. SSE are also supportive and Michael will continue with negotiations. It was felt that as Michael currently has numerous commitments to ask Mairi if she would be able to undertake funding applications. • The Ranger funding from Bord na Gaidhlig expires at end of the month. An application has been submitted to Community Land Scotland for Gaelic Language related funding to support the Ranger service. A decision is expected at the end of the month. • Other community groups have also raised concerns about the Peatland Restoration, Carbon Credits. It was decided to wait until the sector develops and matures before making a decision. • In future Michael will circulate Harris Forum minutes to directors and staff when received. • ACE have offered to undertake a ground deer count which the Board agreed to accept. It was proposed to have an cull of 35 hinds, 25 to the Stalking Club and 10 to ACE. • The Trust's commitment of helping renovate the Scalpay Playpark has been fulfilled with 12 manpower days recorded. SCA have made it clear that neither they, nor any other community body, will be taking responsibility for the play park when it is operational and have donated the equipment to the Trust. After inquiring with our insurers it seems the land the playpark sits on is covered by our Public Liability insurance but the equipment will require a separate policy item. There will be a substantial cost involved along with annual maintenance and regular assurance checks on equipment. The board proposed that once the resumption process has been completed, the ownership of the play park area be transferred to SCA or another appropriately constituted local group. Legal costs would be met by the Trust and ownership would be transferred for a token figure. Michael will contact SCA with this proposal. 	Michael	

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4.	Financial Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A financial report was presented detailing the current financial position of the Trust and providing a forecast of both income and expenditure over the next financial year in order to inform financial management and budget setting for the next 12 months. The report was discussed and it was agreed to hold a Focus Day to discuss budget planning. It was suggested that the Trust contact SAC for advice and Michael will contact HIE and the accountant for input prior to the day. Michael will contact the Board regarding suggested dates for the Focus Day. 	Michael	
5.	AOCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kenny MacAskill, Eileananabuich, has offered the Trust his quad as a donation. The Board were grateful to Kenny for his generosity. Calum will represent the Trust at this year's War Memorial service. The owner of the house at Tolmachan wishes to purchase the area of ground adjacent to his house. It was agreed to sell him the land at market value. 		
6.	DONM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15th November 2021 		