

# NORTH HARRIS TRUST

## MINUTE OF MEETING

**TITLE** : The North Harris Trust

**DATE** : 14:02:22

**TIME** : 7.30pm

**VENUE** : Tigh an Urrais and Zoom

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

Calum expressed sympathies at the passing of Janet Hunter, author of the book A History of North Harris

Item	Summary and Action	Who?	When?
1.	<b>Apologies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Robert MacKinnon, Donald MacLeod, Kate Lewis, Tim Langley</li></ul>		
2.	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minutes were amended to include Tim Langley who was omitted from the last meeting. Minutes were approved by Barbara MacKay and seconded by Lena Morrison.</li><li>• There is still a vacancy for a Board Champion for Estate Management and it was considered highly desirable that a director should volunteer for this role.</li></ul>		
3.	<b>Financial Working Group Options Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The report which was generated by the Financial Working Group was circulated and discussed.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Links should be strengthened with MOWI as they are the only remaining lease holders and seek to understand their commitment to these three sites. Terms of lease termination should be reviewed with rent reviews due in 2023 This point was approved.</li><li>2. The suggestion that from 2023 all stags shall be sold annually on a sporting basis to the highest bidder was rejected. The Board agreed that ACE should have first refusal of stags at market value before considering selling to the highest bidder. It is suggested that stags culled as part of the Habitat Restoration Project and all hinds will continue to be offered to HSC as the means of managing the deer population.</li></ol></li><li>• The Report was approved with these recommendations to be included.</li></ul>		
4.	<b>Draft of the North Harris Trust Strategy 2022-27</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The draft of the Strategy was distributed for comment and approval. It was discussed with these outcomes reached and the Draft Strategy approved.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It was agreed to have the inclusion of Gaelic.</li><li>• It was decided not to include Chair's Comments.</li></ul></li></ul>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was agreed that a shorter, snappier, vision statement be drafted and a set of bullet points to list the goals.</li> <li>• Community engagement should be a priority. It was agreed that the Trust shall strongly encourage input and feedback, both positive and negative, from the local community, and especially from Trust members, on the direction of the organisation and the way forward as part of the wider community.</li> <li>• A 'Directors Month' was suggested where Directors engage with community members to gauge and evaluate the work of the Trust.</li> <li>• It was agreed that the Trust's work be marketed more frequently to a wider audience to raise the profile of the Trust.</li> <li>• Investigate employment and training opportunities.</li> <li>• Continue to identify and facilitate business space.</li> <li>• The Trust will produce an updated and current Estate Management Plan, offering an overview of the possibilities for improving quality of life for the community and the wider public through conserving and improving the land asset. This will include complementary documents such as a Deer Management Plan that take a landscape level approach, as well as Site Management Plans that deal with specific locations with identified pressures or opportunities.</li> <li>• The financial plan prepared by the working group was agreed.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>5. Staff Reports</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The AGM will be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> March in the Community Centre. It will be advertised online tomorrow &amp; in next week's De tha Dol?. There were 6 directors due to retire by rotation and the 4 drawn by ballot for election are: Robert MacKinnon – Tarbert area Donnie MacLeod – Scalpay area Kirsty MacKay – Rhenigidale, Marig, Eileananabuich area Kate Lewis – Hushinish – Meavaig area</li> <li>• There has been no interest in the Marketing post advertised through Napier University. This will be revisited at a later date.</li> <li>• The majority of Scalpay grazings shareholders voted against participating in the NRF scheme. The finances set aside for Scalpay will be reallocated to other areas in the scheme.</li> <li>• Michael suggested a temporary board subgroup should be formed to make decisions on a number of land related matters. It was decided that the directors in person in the office would look over them after the main meeting. This was subsequently undertaken.</li> <li>• The new tenants are now in residence in Creag Aonaich.</li> <li>• There will be a meeting of the Harris Forum in Talla na Mara tomorrow night.</li> <li>• The Lewis &amp; Harris Deer Management Group AGM is to be held in the office on 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Any interested Board members are welcome to attend. They are looking for a secretary if anyone is interested.</li> </ul>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was agreed to propose a £2000 per annum sum for rent to Scottish Salmon for the area the propose to install a mast in Scalpay. This sum will be split 50:50 with the crofter.</li> <li>• Michael will meet with Don MacLeod, MOWI, to discuss fish farm leases.</li> <li>• A contractor has been appointed by ACE to replace the vehicular wooden bridge in Glen Meavaig. It was thought that signage should be erected to advise of any dangers. This will be suggested to ACE.</li> <li>• A discussion took place regarding the plan for relocation of the Recycling Depot and proposed fencing. Questions were raised regarding the costing of the proposed fencing and the plan for relocation.</li> <li>• It was agreed discussions should continue with SSE for the West Tarbert Growing Project.</li> </ul>			
9	AOCB	No matters to discuss.		
7.	DONM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AGM – Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022</li> <li>• Board Meeting - Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022</li> </ul>		