

NORTH HARRIS TRUST

MINUTE OF MEETING

TITLE : The North Harris Trust
DATE : 23:01:2023
VENUE : Tigh an Urrais and Zoom

TIME : 7.30pm

Present: Michael Hunter, Calum MacKay, Barbara MacKay, D J Morrison, Diana MacLennan, Robert MacKinnon, Donald MacLeod, Kirsty MacKay, Lena Morrison, Paul Russ, Kate Lewis, Fa'ich Bihan Gallic, Finlay MacLeod, Phil Butterfield, David Wake, Tim Langley

Guests: Richard Williams, JMT & John Moffat, MJG

Calum welcomed Richard Williams and John Moffat to the meeting.

Item	Summary and Action	Who?	When?
1.	Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none">No apologies		
2.	Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">Minutes were approved by Robert MacKinnon and seconded by Kate Lewis.Calum informed the Board that John Macdonald has tendered his resignation as director for the Scalpay area. Calum expressed his thanks to John for his input during his time on the Board.		
3.	Conflicts of Interest <ul style="list-style-type: none">No Conflicts of Interest were declared in relation to Agenda items.Kirsty MacKay later left the meeting due to a Conflict of Interest in a matter raised under AOCB.		
4.	John Moffat, MJG, Auditor, Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mann Judd Gordon have been appointed as NHT and NHTC auditors this year. John Moffat will act as the auditor for MJG and introduced himself to the Board, giving an overview of his experience and background. John will liaise with Calum MacDonald at CIB and will confirm a suitable date for the AGM, hopefully in March.		
5.	Richard Williams, JMT Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">Calum welcomed Richard and thanked him for attending the meeting in person.Richard gave a description of his employment with JMT and shared how he enjoys working alongside other community land groups like NHT, as per the JMT Strategy on partner groups.The Memorandum of Understanding between JMT and NHT needs to be reviewed.Michael and Richard will continue exchanging information and future project ideas.		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The question of work parties, especially for footpaths, was raised. Richard explained that JMT haven't had work parties since Sandy Maxwell had left, and due to Covid restrictions and a change in policy they are now unlikely to recommend. JMT is able to share information on NHT volunteering opportunities with their membership directly, and there have been a few volunteers for tree planting who made contact with us by this channel recently. 			
6.	Quarterly Reports; Finance, Estate Management and Housing Sub Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Finance</u>: Paul spoke on behalf of the Finance Committee and reported that the budget was what it was expected to be for the first quarter. The Sage report will be reviewed with the accountant to produce the desired quarterly report. <u>Estate Management</u>: DJ spoke on behalf of the Estate Management Committee and informed that the Land Management Plan produced by Fañch had been reviewed and a draft will be sent out to directors for review before the next quarterly meeting. <u>Housing</u>: Kate updated the Board on progress with the West Tarbert site. Positive feedback has been received from planning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Meavaig drawings have been received and Malcolm Crate is costing the build. Finlay asked whether the Trust had ownership of the drawings and the Board agreed that this should be clarified. A discussion took place regarding contractors who could be engaged in the project and this will be investigated further once costings have been received. It was noticed that Kate was the sole director on the housing sub committee, Phil and Barbara offered to become involved. Finlay and Paul will provide support to the committee in their fields of knowledge as required. The HHP housing development in Scott Road is progressing. 	Michael Fañch David	Before Q2. Before Q2. Before next meeting.
7.	Community Consultation Feedback Action Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback and action points were discussed and amendments were agreed. The full version of the document will be published on the website and in De tha Dol?. Barbara also suggested publishing it on the We Love Stornoway website and Events. 		
8.	Staff Reports and Matters Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amhuinnsuidhe have reduced the stags they wish to take to 45 per annum. It will therefore be proposed to ACL that the ground associated with this lease is reduced further to between Leòsaid-Chliostar-Uladail and Tolmachan-Stulabhal-Reasort Contact has been made with both the previous and current tenants of 2 Ardhasaig on the croft house and croft improvement compensation issue. No response has been received yet in relation to how they wish to proceed. NHT have agreed to host an event in March for Community Land Scotland for landowners from the mainland. Details will be circulated once confirmed. Directors are encouraged to attend. CNES have been successful in an application to NatureScot for Gunnera treatment in the Western Isles, CLOH have been appointed to administer the fund & NHT have been asked to deliver the programme in Harris. A request for a dissertation interview has been received from a student in Uig. Directors were invited to volunteer. 	Michael	Before next meeting.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katherine Rodgers, the marketing student placement, will arrive in Harris on the 20th February for a week. Katherine will be invited to attend the next board meeting. • Bord na Gaidhlig have confirmed that NHT can apply for Gaelic Officer funding for Fañch's Ranger post. • The building of a Climate Action Hub for the Western Isles is continuing with the Ranger Service supporting the project for NHT. • Visit Scotland have confirmed that they do not own the Tourist Information stop at Ardhasaig and that the Trust are free to use and update it. Fañch would welcome any suggestions. It was suggested to include information relating to the Whaling Station as there is no parking available near the site for interpretation. • The change of use for the retail outlet at Urgha was completed today. • The vending machines at Huisinis Gateway are operational and the first cash income has been banked. • SSEN have asked that the Growing Project signage includes the name "McFaul's Folly" as this is how they refer to the site. It was decided to ask John Murdo Morrison for suggestions for a suitable local name. • CWE, the Monan Windfarm owners, have met with the planning department regarding replacing the existing machines. They are currently investigating options. 			
9.	AOCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kirsty MacKay left the meeting due to a conflict of interest. • Calum had received an approach from the Charity Shop asking whether the Trust would be willing to support them as they endeavour to purchase the land where the shop is situated. It was unanimously agreed that the Board were willing to support the charity as it is a great asset in the community. Calum will relay the Trust's response. 	Calum	ASAP
10.	DONM & AGM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday 24th February 2023 and AGM date to be confirmed by Auditor. 		