

NORTH HARRIS TRUST

MINUTE OF MEETING

TITLE : The North Harris Trust

DATE : 27:03:2023

TIME : 7.30pm

VENUE : Tigh an Urrais and Zoom

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

Item	Summary and Action	Who?	When?
1.	Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none">Lena Morrison, Donald MacLeod		
2.	Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">Minutes were approved by Barbara MacKay and seconded by Robert MacKinnon.		
3.	Conflicts of Interest <ul style="list-style-type: none">Calum and Kate both declared conflicts of interest to items to be discussed and will leave the meeting during the relevant item.		
4.	Staff Reports & Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">Tree planting is continuing with more trees due to arrive and be planted in April.Fañch has identified and undertaken work on three heritage sites. Interpretation has been prepared for Uamh a' Phrionnsa (Prince Charlie's Cave) in Scalpay, the Bothy at Eilean Glas has been cleared and painted and Commun Eachdraidh Salpaigh have expressed an interest in using the space for an exhibition during the summer months. The third site is Àirigh Lonndabhat, a sheiling at Gleann Lacasdail which has been partially rebuilt. It has potential to be used as a bothy.The Ranger Service answered ScotGov's consultation regarding the development of Highly Protected Marine Areas. A discussion took place about the HMPA consultation and the Board felt strongly about making their views public. Fañch will prepare a draft and distribute for comment before publishing.CnES have received funding to help service sites for new builds and have asked NHT to identify plots that they can carry out desktop feasibility studies on.As visitor numbers are rising at Huisinis Gateway and there is a reduction in this year's caretaking hours due to no funding, it was decided to trial leaving the Gateway building open overnight. If any problems arise normal opening times will resume.	Fañch	ASAP

Item	Summary and Action	Who?	When?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Meavaig Housing Project was discussed and the possibility of CnES funding towards the project. Directors requested costings for the build for the next meeting and asked David to contact CnES for an update on potential funding streams. • Due to the uncertainty of the Meavaig Project the Board decided not to proceed with the purchase of the site at West Tarbert at the moment. • Katherine redesigned the Annual Report and Directors agreed that it was very good. • Katherine will have a meeting with the JMT marketing representative for advice, Directors were pleased with Katherine's progress. • It was decided to place £200K into a 6-month fixed account with a higher interest rate. • Community Land Outer Hebrides are applying for Seasonal Warden funding for June to October 2023. • The annual pay review is due in May and Michael will liaise between staff and the Chair and Vice Chair. • A discussion took place regarding tenants purchasing their crofts. It was decided that the purchase cost was low and it would be fair to review the rent to £50 per annum at purchase. The crofts can be purchased at 15 x the annual rent and it was agreed this was a fair price. Michael will draft a policy. <p>Calum left the room at this point due to Col.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rental of Agricultural Parks was discussed and Michael would like to review and standardise the leases It was agreed that £5 per hectare be applied and DJ will assist Michael with the review. Calum returned. • Michael proposed that NHT withdraw from the Deer Management Group. As membership fees are based on cull figures and proposed higher cull figures forecast this year it will be costly for NHT with not much benefit. The Board agreed to withdraw NHT membership and to state that financial implications are the reason for withdrawal. Michael plans to stand down as treasurer for the group. • The 2 turbines at Hushinish have been removed from the insurance policy as they were very expensive to insure. NFU have recommended cover for cyber-attacks. It was agreed to seek advice and recommendations from Danny at DMR IT before committing <p>Kate left the room at this point due to Col.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scaladale Centre have expressed an interest in the workshop at Scaladale and have asked for a nominal rent of £1 or for no rental cost. The suggested rental for the property was £300 pcm. Another party has also expressed an interest. It was decided to advertise again and revisit at the next meeting. Kate returned. • The AGM will be held on 25th April. Tim Langley, Paul Russ, Phil Butterfield and Calum MacKay are due for retirement by rotation. The following Directorships are therefore considered vacant until the AGM; Ardhasaig-Bunavoneadar, Bogha Glas-Scaladale, Tarbert (x1), and Scalpay (x2). Applications will be sought from the NHT membership with elections and appointments at the AGM. • The Muaitheabhail funding application for the Bogha Glas track was unsuccessful but the work will commence in April and be funded by NHT. • A request has been received to place a catering van on the Ardvourlie Woodland hardstanding over the 2023 summer season. The Board felt that this arrangement wasn't suitable. 	<p>David</p> <p>Michael</p> <p>Michael</p>	<p>Before Next Meeting</p>

Item		Summary and Action	Who?	When?
5.	AOCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No other business was discussed. 		
6.	DONM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGM – Tuesday 25th April 2023 in Tarbert Community Centre. Board Meeting – Monday 8th May 2023 		