

West Harris Crofting Trust

Minutes 16th February 10, Seilebost School 7.30pm

BUSINESS

Apologies: Angus, Mairi, Gordon, Bobby

Attending: Members: Neil, Murdo, Finlay, Rhoda, Roddy, Richard,

1) The **minutes** of the meeting of the 18th January were approved

2) **Matters Arising**

The ceremony to transfer the estate to the community had been a resounding success, congratulations received from:

- Assynt Crofters Trust
- Cairngorm National Park
- John Watt HIE
- Malcolm Burr CNE
- Alasdair Allan MSP

The letter to non member tenants had been very successful with a further 11 new members added.

3) **Financial Update** A handout was given out showing transactions to date, there is a balance of £2,633 including the £2,000 loan from TIG. The trust has taken out a policy with NFU to cover public and director's liability, the premium is being paid by standing order. All invoices are paid but directors agreed to push ahead with the raffle ASAP to fund a further print of leaflets.

5) **Brochure/Website**

Bobby is arranging with Richard to add current minutes, press coverage of ceremony and raffle page. (AP)

6) **Hydro Feasibility Study**

Final feasibility study not yet received from Fairhurst but expected shortly.

Bobby had met our Lottery adviser in Glasgow who had confirmed that we could amend our grant claim if costs are higher than anticipated.

Several suggestions were put forward for directors for West Harris Renewables, The Secretary to contact them (AP)

7) **Policies** The North Harris Trust policy on land disposals was discussed, it was felt that a simple interim policy should be drawn up. The Chair had also spoken to the Stornoway Trust re policies. (AP)

It was also agreed to draw up other policies to govern the work of the Trust (AP)

8) **Raffle** see above

9) **Membership** It was noted that membership has increased to 121 including an additional 7 tenants. All tenants are now members apart from 2 in Scaristavore & 2 in Seilebost.

Friends of West Harris would be set up when time allowed (AP)

10) **Housing Consultation**

It was agreed that the Trust should begin a process of consultation with townships to identify sites that could be developed quickly.

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- 11) **Assignment 8 Horgabost** It was agreed to write our solicitor advising of our consent to the transfer. (AP) (*Interest of Richar, Angus, Mairi & Finlay noted*)
- 12) **Sale Plot 2 1 Borve** It was agreed to write our solicitor confirming that the Trust were willing to agree to a sale in return for the sum of £2,500 (AP) (*Interest of Richard noted*)
- 13) **House Site 7 Luskentyre** It was agreed to support the de-crofting of the statutory house site. (AP) (*Interest of Murdo & Bobby noted*)
- 14) **7 Year Croft Rent Review** It was agreed to postpone this review for a year
- 15) **Community Account Management** It was noted that funding may be available through this scheme for a development officer if the lottery application was unsuccessful.
- 16) **RSPB Bird Survey** It was agreed that the Trust support this, George Macleod is to be asked to co-ordinate (AP)
- 17) **SNH Open Event 25th March** It was agreed to send two delegates (AP)
- 18) **House Sites** Additional expressions of interest were noted.

AOCB

The e-mail from our **Lottery advisor** was noted a full response to be given by the end of February (AP)

It was agreed to invite **Sandra Morrison** to future directors meetings, she has intimated a desire to help the Trust. (AP)

Seilebost **School Closure** It was agreed that the Trust engage with the consultation process

The letter to tenants has been drafted and will be circulated to directors shortly (AP)

The request from Robbie the Pict was turned down (AP)

It was agreed to set up a register of interest for directors (AP)

The Chair advised members that he and two other directors had met with Simon Fraser and North Harris Trust to agree protocols for **management** of the affairs of the Trust

A director said he had been advised by a local builder that the Trust was delaying an electricity connection by not granting a **wayleave** The Chair confirmed that the Trust has not received any correspondence from SSE.

It was noted that the **Golf Club** had received their lottery grant and work had started on course and clubhouse improvements.

It was agreed to investigate the area of land at Horgabost not under crofting tenure (AP)

19) **Next Meeting Wednesday 10th March 2010**

Neil Campbell
Secretary

West Harris Crofting Trust

West Harris Crofting Trust Action Points

Date	Action	Responsible Person	Target Date	Current Position
16/2	Update website	Bobby	28/2	Updated minutes/press releases
16/2	Renewables Co Directors	Neil	28/2	
16/2	Interim Land Policy	Murdo	28/2	
16/2	Other Trust Policies	Neil/Bobby	31/3	
16/2	Friends of West Harris		31/3	
16/2	8 Horgabost	Diana	28/2	Replied 22/2
16/2	1 Borve	Diana	28/2	Replied 22/2
16/2	7 Luskentyre	Diana	28/2	Replied 22/2
16/2	RSPB survey	Neil	31/7	Advised we will participate 18/2
16/2	SNH Open	Neil	25/3	Advised we will participate
16/2	Lottery revision	Neil/Bobby	28/2	Completed 2 nd March
16/2	Sandra Morrison	Neil	20/2	Confirmed 23/2
16/2	Letter to tenants	Murdo	28/2	Sent out 1/3
16/2	Robbie the Pict	Neil	18/2	Completed 18/2
16/2	Register of Interest	Neil	31/3	Draft completed
16/2	Land at Horgabost	Neil	31/3	Owned by Mackays

Colour Code

Amber On target

Green Completed

Red Not on Target