

West Harris Crofting Trust

Minutes 18th June 09, Seilebost School 7.30pm

BUSINESS

- 1) Apologies: Angus, Mairi, Bobby
- 2) Attending: Neil, Murdo, Richard, Gordon, Finlay & Roddy. In addition Rhoda Macdonald attended as a prospective director and Margaret Ann Elder as HIE adviser.
- 3) Minutes of the meeting of the 2nd March were approved with an amendment to note 12 that the license application related to Seilebost only. :

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Proposed Gordon seconded by Finlay

4) **Formal appointment of Directors Forms 288a**

Murdo to complete forms for Mairi & Rhoda

5) **Financial Update summary**

£1,000 received from HIE as part of the £4,000 start up grant, balance to be paid out on receipts

6) **Scottish Government update**

We are waiting for a formal response from the Government for deferred payment of £20k and the additions to exemptions from clawback.

7) **Comhairle Funding Update**

Comhairle had approved funding of up to £47k.

8) **TIG Funding**

Murdo & Neil had met with TIG who had offered £20k loan, if this was not required for the purchase it was hoped this could be used for developing house sites.

9) **HIE Grant fees**

As the Government had now offered to meet our fees for the purchase of the estate an application had been made to HIE to use the £10k provisionally offered to fund the cost of architects looking at our proposed sites including site surveys & costings for development. Estimates had been obtained from Robert Fraser & Malcolm Crate, following discussion & advice it was agreed to accept the offer from Robert Fraser as he was a qualified architect.

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10) Study Visit

It was agreed to investigate as to whether a visit to Gigha could be arranged to examine at first hand the difference community ownership can make to a small island.

11) Lottery application update

Margaret Ann advised that she could no longer complete the application but handed out additional information packs. She stressed the importance of a good application with maps, photos, option appraisals etc. Murdo agreed to draft an option appraisal, Neil would revise the business plan to include the additional information requested by Sandra.

12) Affordable house sites Horgabost/Seilebost

It was agreed to look at the potential for house sites in this township in more detail

13) Crofts

It was confirmed that we would work with the Crofters Commission to free up unused crofts.

14) Hydro Scheme update

A site visit took place yesterday with the consultants appointed to carry out the feasibility study, initial indications were that Seilebost was looking good; Borve had potential for a small unit.

15) RSPB

Bridget England would be visiting 16th/17th July, a meeting would be held on the evening of the 16th with township committees & interested crofters. It was agreed that RSPB be asked to complete an SRDP application for Horgabost/Seilebost & that the other townships work with SAC. Following advice from Sandra Holmes it was also agreed to look at an estate application with potential for a 10% grant on all costs of acquisition & development.

16) AOCB

Date of next meeting 16th July 7.30pm, but Neil & Murdo agreed to meet regularly on Mondays from 12noon until 2.00pm; any additional directors available would also attend

Neil Campbell
Secretary

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