

West Harris Crofting Trust

Minutes 27th January 09, Seilebost School 7.30pm

BUSINESS

1) Minutes of the meeting of the 13th Jan were approved with the following amendments:

Point 8 add LODGE

Point 10 add HOPEFULLY meet all costs...

Proposed Murdo seconded by Roddy

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

Forms were distributed for completion

3) **Director Vacancies co-opt?**

It was agreed to ask Mairi Macleod & Rhoda Macdonald to become directors

4) **Financial Update summary**

TRUST		IN	OUT	Balance
23-Oct	Members	74		74
05-Dec	Members	27		101
	Donation	15		116
28-Nov	Interest	0.01		116.01
18-Dec	Members	4		120.01
	Fundraising/Donations	305		425.01
22-Dec	Members	4		429.01
	Fundraising	150	150	429.01
31-Dec	Interest	0.05	0.01	429.05
12-Jan	Transfer from Buyout	277.79		706.84

5) **Scottish Government update**

Murdo had met Martin Johnson in Edinburgh, they were meeting Harper Macleod their solicitors this week.

Two outstanding points:

a) Scarista picnic area sale to CNES

b) Rock from cutting to Leverburgh breakwater sale to CNE. It was agreed to postpone sale until transfer if possible to give the benefit to the Trust as all fees would be met by the Council.

They hoped to meet Simon within the next 2 to 3 weeks to agree sporting rights prior to transfer the Government has an obligation to advertise in case there is a right of pre-emption.

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6) Comhairle Funding Update

Murdo advised that we were now approaching the Council for £50,000 as the lottery grant would not be approved until June at the earliest. Neil had written the Convenor asking for this amount. A decision would be made on the 11th February. Neil to draft a letter to send to the three Councillors.

7) Lottery application update

Margaret Ann to check the following:

- a) can we get 2 lots of £200k grant over 5 years
- b) should we include the hydro scheme
- c) date of application, but thought to be mid March

She offered assistance in completing the form

8) Further Fundraising

The first draft of the fundraising leaflet was noted, it was agreed to proceed to a second draft with narrative.

It was also agreed to target individuals for help such as Donald Macdonald with a direct letter for help, Neil to prepare a draft for review.

Gordon advised that Leaclea was available for a curry night; 20th March was a possible date, Gordon to investigate costs.

9) RSPB

George Campbell was coming to meet the Board on the 12th February

10) Affordable house sites where?

The planning officer would visit on Thursday 12th to investigate possible sites for housing.

11) New Crofts

Murdo to investigate the possibility of us offering payments to older tenants to give up crofts to new entrants.

12) Hydro Scheme update

Gordon agreed to complete license applications for all dam structures on the estate prior to the 31st March.

13): Conference Mind Your Own Business

Gordon possibly to attend.

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14) Advert Crofts/House Sites

This would appear in the De Tha Dol, Gazzette & Free Press.

15) Domain Name

It was agreed to purchase West Harris Crofting trust .org

16) AOCB

The directors looked at the updated logos by the school pupils, Bobby agreed to take to Andrew Craig to see which would be most suitable.

Murdo advised that Murdo MacIennan from the Crofters Commission was willing to attend one of our meetings, Murdo to organise a suitable date.

Date of next meeting 12th February with George Campbell RSPB 7.30pm
Seilabost School

Neil Campbell
Secretary

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