

West Harris Crofting Trust

Minutes 2nd March 09, Seilebost School 7.30pm

BUSINESS

- 1) Apologies: Richard, Finlay
- 2) Attending: Neil, Murdo, Angus, Gordon, Bobby, Mairi & Roddy
- 3) Minutes of the meeting of the 12th Feb were approved :

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Proposed Roddy seconded by Gordon

4) **Formal appointment of Directors**

Mairi Macleod was welcomed to the meeting as a prospective director

5) **Financial Update summary**

No change in finances

6) **Scottish Government update**

Neil had spoken to Martin Johnson today, solicitors making slow progress.
No reply from Minister to request to reduce price or pay fees.

7) **Comhairle Funding Update**

Comhairle had approved funding press report stated £50k, if this is correct £25k to be allocated for purchase £25k for development. Council had also written to Government expressing the wish that the estate be given to the community.

8) **Lottery application update**

Development application still pending,

9) **Further Fundraising**

Neil had discussed OSCR application with Mike Ferris & was to incorporate amendments prior to submission.

Agreed to proceed with curry night 20th March.

Tickets/posters Bobby to prepare each committee member to get & sell 6 tickets, with 30 to Brownies.

Price £12

Music Bobby to organise first choice Ian Angus

Roddy volunteered Scott to pipe

Gordon to obtain the licence & raffle tickets

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10) Affordable house sites

Neil & Murdo had met Matt Bruce re ACTISH fund, we were asked to write seeking assistance. Comhairle has £300k pa to use for housing & can be used to reduce costs of house sites.

11) New Crofts

Murdo to ask Murdo MacIennan to directors meeting to seek ways of bringing existing crofts back into use.

12) Hydro Scheme update

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

Membership submitted for Community Energy Scotland

13) SNH

Neil had met Mark Macdonald SNH very supportive, possibility of assistance of up to £10k towards purchase cost.

14) Advert Crofts/House Sites

This had appeared in the De Tha Dol, Gazette & Free Press, to date 6 expressions of interest received.

15) RSPB

Alistair Macdonald to visit West Side tomorrow for initial look round.

Bridget England to visit on the 17th July to assist with SRDP applications.

15) AOCB

It was agreed that any transfer function would involve the school.

Date of next meeting 16th March

Neil Campbell
Secretary

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