

West Harris Crofting Trust

Minutes 18th January 10, Seilebost School 7.30pm

BUSINESS

Apologies: Angus.

Attending: Members: Neil, Murdo, Finlay, Rhoda, Bobby, Roddy, Gordon, Mairi, Richard

1) The **minutes** of the meeting of the 7th December were approved by Bobby & seconded by Gordon.

2) **Matters Arising**

HIE Grant undertaking & TIG loan agreements both signed on behalf of the Trust by Neil, all funding now secure. Simon had found a few anomalies in the titles but nothing to merit delaying the transfer; these would be discussed in detail at a future meeting when we had access to the plans.

3) **Financial Update** A handout was given out showing transactions to date & budget for the next month, this showed a balance of £1,200 after receipt of HIE start up grant & payment of website & brochure. £820 has been approved from Cllr Munro's ward funding to assist with the planning fee.

4) **Transfer Ceremony**

Agreed for 7.00pm Monday 25th with tea coffee & home baking. Wine to be donated by Borve Lodge

5) **Brochure/Website**

Website now live & directors very happy with the site, agreed to upgrade with a raffle page with each £5 given as a donation qualifying for a raffle ticket. There would be one prize of a week in Blue Reef summer 2011 including trip to St Kilda, golfing, stalking, dinner Scarista House etc.

6) **Hydro Feasibility Study**

Planning Consent submitted. Neil confirmed he has spoken to Cameron Mitchell who owns the existing weir & fenced area (ex Scottish Water) His intention is to build a house on the site & would be interested in working with the Trust. It was agreed by the directors that we build a new weir further up the river but to meet with Mr Mitchell when he next visits Harris to discuss his plans. The draft Articles of Association for West Harris Renewables were approved.

7) **Future of Crofting Conference**

Murdo & Bobby to attend

8) The Borve & Annishadder **house site policy** was noted, it was agreed to draft policies for the next meeting.

9) **Raffle** see above

10) **Membership** it was agreed that membership of the Trust would be restricted to croft tenants and full time residents. Any other person wishing to be associated could become a 'friend of West Harris'

11) **Trust Solicitor & Surveyor**

It was agreed that the Trust appoint Simon Fraser as solicitor and Alec John Macleod as surveyor for all land transactions. Alec John would purchase all the digital maps for West Harris.

AOCB

West Harris Crofting Trust

It was agreed that the Trust ask tenants to pay their rent by direct debit if possible. It was agreed that all non member tenants of the estate be written asking if they wished to become members.

It was agreed to write all tenants as soon as possible after transfer with a simple guide on how the Trust would be administered including point of contact for various issues.

12) Next Meeting Monday 15th February 2010

Neil Campbell
Secretary