

# West Harris Crofting Trust

Minutes 18<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

# **West Harris Crofting Trust**

## **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 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> July, a meeting would be held on the evening of the 16<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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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