

West Harris Crofting Trust

Minutes 7th December 09, Seilebost School 7.30pm

BUSINESS

Apologies: Angus, Richard, Mairi.

Attending: Members: Neil, Murdo, Finlay, Rhoda, Bobby, Roddy, Gordon
Alaistair Nicolson Community Land Unit HIE

Murdo welcomed Alaistair our new adviser from HIE CLU, one of the directors of Borve Estate purchased in 1993.

1) The **minutes** of the meeting of the 21st October were approved by Roddy & seconded by Finlay.

2) **Matters Arising**

The formal offer has now been received from the Comhairle

3) **Financial Update** No change £1,500 in bank

4) **Scottish Government update**

The transfer date was now likely to be around the 26th January to coincide with a Comhairle Conference on Community Land issues.

Drew Ratter from the Crofters Commission has indicated a wish to attend the ceremony. Discussion took place on how the event should be marked; possible venues include the school, Scarista House & Borve Lodge

5) **Comhairle Funding** The grant will be paid direct into our account.

6) **TIG Funding** Murdo & Neil to meet with Stewart Wilson on Wednesday

7) **Affordable Site Report** It was agreed to wait until the land was under community control.

.8) Brochure/Website

Bobby showed the draft pages, this would go live within a week; Members were very pleased with the layout & content. It was agreed rather than ask for donations at present we should organise an on line raffle. This would give us a bank of contacts for the future. It was agreed to leave the brochure until we had our charitable status.

9) **Hydro Feasibility Study**

A flow monitor has been installed with Roddy Maclennan keeping an eye on it. It was agreed to set up a separate company wholly owned by the Trust to take this forward with a suggested name of West Harris Renewables.

10) **Community owned wind** South Harris Community Council (South Harris Renewable Group), Bays of Harris Association and West Harris Crofting Trust with the support of Community Energy Scotland are commissioning consultants to carry out a feasibility study into the potential for a small community owned wind farm in South Harris.

The study to be completed by May 2010 will identify the most suitable sites for wind power generation.

11) **Management of Estate** It was agreed to ask Diana or Alastair from NHT to one of our future meetings to discuss the practicalities of management and

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policies to be agreed. NHT would collect the rents on our behalf with Simon Fraser to administer the legal aspects.

12) Dates for 2010 Meetings

- January 18th
- February 15th
- March 15th
- April 12th
- May 17th
- June 14th
- July 19th
- August 16th
- September 20th
- October 18th
- November 15th
- December 13th

AOCB

- Future of Affordable Housing Conference 11th December Murdo & Neil to attend
- Mind Your Own Business Kershader 4th February Bobby & Neil to attend
- Comhairle Buyout Support Seminar 15th December Murdo & possibly Neil to attend.
- It was agreed to send Rona a bouquet of flowers in appreciation of her support.
- It was agreed to write all members & tenants with an update when the transfer date was agreed

13) Next Meeting Monday 18th January 2010

Neil Campbell
Secretary