

MINUTES – DIRECTOR’S MEETING 22ND JANUARY 2013

1. Attendance.

Apologies Norman Mackay, Roddy Macdonald, Fiona Mackenzie and Donald Maclennan.

Present: Finlay Maclennan, Murdo Mackay (Chair), Neil Campbell (Secretary), Rhoda Macdonald, Richard Maclennan, Duncan MacPherson (Commercial Development Manager), Cait Wooll (Business Development Officer) and Linda Green (Administrator)

2. Approval of Minutes 18th December 2012

Minutes unanimously approved.

3. Review of Action Points

- Inform tenants of rent review – send letters next week
- Rural design completion – community consultation 24th January 2013

4. Updates

Financial

£14,500 in the bank at end December 2012. .

£11,000 received from Big Lottery.

Grid connection paid.

Funds received from HIE for design fees and graduate placement.

Commercial Development Managers Report

The managers’ report was noted, see appendix 1.

Scarista Wind Turbine

Preliminary quote received from Harbon - £230,000.

A few more objections have been lodged, along with 3 letters of support. Duncan has written responses to initial objections.

Eric Wojcik from CNES has indicated that planning is likely to be approved at the 5th February 2013 planning meeting on the condition that the blades and cell of the turbine are painted grey.

Crofting

2 rents are remaining prior to November 2012 and 5 from November 2012.

Plot Sales

Draft legal documents have been issued to the Calverts. Their lawyer has been directed to Anderson Macarthur.

Colin Chisolm has pulled out of the Luskentyre house plot and asked for his deposit to be returned. The Directors decided to return £1200, retaining £300 to cover costs.

Site visit to be arranged with Scott/Malcolm Maciver in the coming week.

Land Reform Review Group

Submissions will not be posted by LRRG until April. -

Business Development Officers Report

The report was noted, see appendix 2.

Website

The websites structure was finished last week and the content is currently being added.

Horgabost Pontoon and Shed

Meeting with grazing committees next Tuesday to ask if they are interested in the idea. .

Quotes are slowly coming through for the shed. Funding may be available from LEADER, hopefully know by February.

Horticulture

7 out of the 23 people who expressed an interest in horticulture showed up to a meeting held on Tuesday 15th January. Fiona Toor has said that she will help with cost estimates and equipment requirements.

Beach Festival

Murdo Mackay suggested applying for Gaelic Funding, closing date 5/6th February.

Friends of West Harris

1 years membership has been received.

5. Rural Design

Updated plans shown to directors. The main change is a 2m reduction in the rood pitch, in line with comments received at the last community consultation raising concerns about the angular shape of the building.

HIE have said that they will give £2,000 towards producing a business plan and Big Lottery will pay the remaining balance.

The management of the building was discussed. It was suggested that West Harris Trust could build the building and then lease it to a subsidiary company. The VAT status of the West Harris Trust was discussed as it would have to be VAT registered to keep build costs down.

6. Request from Bill Lawson for individuals to write an introduction to 2 newcroft histories for the west side

A number of people from the west side were suggested. The list will be forwarded to Bill Lawson. As a thank you to the Trust, Bill has said that he will include a trust leaflet in each book sold.

7. AOCB

Speed up accounts for inclusion in HIE application

Diary Dates for future meetings:

- Feb 26th
- Mar 19th
- Apr 16th
- May 21st
- Jun 18th