

MINUTES – DIRECTOR’S MEETING 19th NOVEMBER 2013

1. Attendance.

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

Apologies: Fiona Mackenzie

2. Approval of Minutes 29th October 2013

The minutes were unanimously approved with amendment to the point that the donation received from the Seilebost Parent and Teacher council was from school funds.

3. Review of Action Points

- Geese and Rabbit Control

The meeting held in Stornoway on the 4th of November only addressed the issue of geese control. A pilot scheme for the control of geese numbers is to be set up next year.

- Remembrance Day Representation

The Trust was not represented at the Tarbert Remembrance Day event due to short notice but hope to be next year.

4. Updates

Financial

The report was noted, see appendix 1.

Financial projections for 2014 and 2015 were also shown and discussed, see appendix 2.

The Big Lottery had planned to provide £20,000 revenue funding in 2014 and £10,000 in 2015. This would mean that the Trust would have to fund a portion of the revenue costs themselves. It was discussed and agreed that if the Big Lottery were agreeable, the full £30,000 would be claimed in 2014 rather than being spread between the two years.

It was decided that it should become an annual exercise to look at the projected cash flow for the coming years.

Commercial Development Managers Report

The Report was noted, see appendix 3. The following updates were given at the meeting:

Glen Dubhlinn Hydro Scheme

Duncan received a phone call from CARES yesterday asking how the hydro scheme was progressing. They suggested that the Co-op bank may be reconsidering renewables funding. It was decided to wait for planning permission to be reinstated and to get back in touch with the Co-op. It was suggested that the Trust might consider an Industrial & Provident Society in order to finance the hydro scheme. Duncan to speak to Kirsten at CIS to get more information.

Scarista Wind Turbine

It is hoped that after a lengthy delay the deed of restriction for the Scarista Turbine will be signed off this week. The directors agreed to draw down a loan facility from CnES if formally offered and required to cover short-term cash flow for the start of the project.

Plot Sales

Since writing this report, the chair has received a response from Paul Wheelhouse, the minister responsible for the department of estates. It seems that the legal firm which lost the government contract earlier this year has been dragging their feet. They have now been chased up which will hopefully result in legal transactions taking place more quickly.

It is hoped that the restrictions placed on the two house plots at Rubha Romagaidh can be changed to the same level as other house plots offered for sale by the Trust. This will mean that there is a clause over the land that any house built upon it must be occupied permanently.

The housing allocations committee had recently met and considered that offers should be made to two couples for the outstanding Luskentyre plots. It was decided that both couples would be asked if they would be interested in a plot if offered. A discussion took place as to how much they would be charged for the supply of water and electricity to the site. A price will be decided once a quote is received from Scottish Hydro.

Seilebost School

Rhoda Macdonald declared an interest as ex - Head Teacher of Shelibost School and therefore did not take part in this discussion.

It was decided that a condition report should be done on the school so as to ascertain the cost of work required to the building should the Trust decide to purchase it. It was decided that following a limited feasibility study into the possible uses for the building an offer should be made to the council to purchase it, preferably before the end of the lease.

The fundraising committee are planning to hold a fundraising event in the school which will involve live music from local musicians and catering from the local ladies. A community consultation will take place in the other room which hopes to gather thoughts from the community into possible future uses for the school building. It was discussed that the event should be advertised using flyers and the local radio.

CERB Consultation

The report was noted, see appendix 4.

Business Development Officers Report

The Report was noted, see appendix 5. The following updates were given at the meeting:

5. AOCB

Croft Mapping

Luskentyre are close to submitting their croft registrations. Scarista is still waiting on croft records but are hopeful that they will be complete by the end of November. Horgabost and Seilebost are holding a meeting next week to begin the process.

School Catchment Consultation

Rhoda Macdonald declared an interest as Head Teacher of Leverhulme Memorial School and therefore did not take part in this discussion.

It was decided to ask the communities view on where the boundaries for each school should lie at the community consultation on the 10th of December and submit the Trusts views by the deadline on the 11th of December.

Defibrillator Service

The document was noted, see appendix 6.

Broadband.

It was brought to the attention of the directors that there would appear to be a lack of knowledge in the community of the lack of coverage offered to West Harris by the proposed next generation broadband roll out. It was decided to revisit this subject at the next meeting.

HDL Carpark

The plans were noted, see appendix 7. The directors agreed to the proposed plans to construct a car parking area in Borve.

Diary Dates for future meetings:

- Nov 19th
- Dec 17th
- Jan 21st
- Feb 18th
- March 18th
- April 15th
- May 13th
- June 17th
- Aug 19th
- Sept 16th
- Oct 21st
- Nov 18th
- Dec 16th