

## MINUTES – DIRECTOR’S MEETING 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2014

### 1. Attendance.

Present: Dougie Ferguson, Finlay Maclellan, Rhoda Macdonald, Murdo Mackay (Chairman), Neil Campbell (Secretary), Roddy Macdonald, Duncan Macpherson (Commercial Development Manager) and Linda Green (Administrator).

Apologies: Norman Iain Mackay, Richard Maclellan, Neil Macdonald and Fiona Mackenzie.

### 2. Approval of Minutes 18<sup>th</sup> March 2014

The minutes were unanimously approved, proposed by Roddy Macdonald and seconded by Neil Campbell.

### 3. Review of Action Points

#### - Design of Luskenytre water and electricity supply

Still awaiting price to re-route power cables to behind the house plots at Luskenytre.

#### - Tackle BT on Broadband Provision

BT have said that HIE can answer most of the questions submitted, still awaiting a response from them. It was decided to chase HIE by email and if no response received to make the community aware that they will not benefit from the improved broadband provision.

#### - Prepare Policy on Absenteeism

The Crofting Commission have issued their policy on absenteeism.

#### - Boundary Walls

It was decided to add the maintenance and repair of boundary walls to the long term goals of the Trust.

### 4. Updates

#### Financial

The report was noted, see appendix 1.

#### *Awards for All Grant*

It was decided that the remaining £1800 from the Awards for All grant given to the Trust for the Beach Festival would be returned to the Lottery as there is not enough time to organise an event this year. The remaining balance from the Beach Festival will be transferred to Core Admin.

#### *Rubha Romagaidh*

The outstanding amount of £241.33 was for a planning amendment and wasn't claimed from the Lottery. The account will be closed using core admin funds and a new account will be opened for the build.

#### **Commercial Development Managers Report**

The Report was noted, see appendix 2. The following updates were given at the meeting:

### ***Glen Dubhlinn Hydro Scheme***

The following two paragraphs have been deleted and will not be made public until the consultation period is over.

### ***Scarista Wind Turbine***

The turbine has exceeded the data allowance for the Scotnet package so will have to be increased. Duncan to check the import reading as it seems high. Press release to appear in next week's De tha dol. Leverhulme pupils came up with a list of possible names for the turbine. These are to be circulated around the directors.

### ***Rubha Romagaidh – Community Building***

Duncan met with Alan Dickson and other architects from Rural Design on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April. They are hopeful that plans will be ready for the building warrant to be submitted within 6-8 weeks. The delay in receiving funding has pushed the build back by about 3 months which means that the building will not be completed until August/September 2015. Alan Dickson suggested that the build contract could be split into two, one for site servicing and another for construction which would speed up the build. The directors decided that they were happy to wait for the design process to be completed and tender for one contractor.

### ***Plot Sales***

Murdo brought it to the meeting's attention that 2 plots which were previously sold at 3 Luskenyre were registered by the Crofting Commission as not having been sold. He suggested that this be circulated to other townships.

### ***Marine Access Project***

The concrete floor of the shed was completed on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April. Duncan has received a written expression of interest from one possible renter and also an enquiry from another. It was decided that a formal agreement of conditions of use would be prepared.

### ***John Muir Trust Volunteers***

The directors expressed their appreciation for the work carried out by the John Muir volunteers who were planting trees and marram during their week in West Harris. It was suggested that dyke maintenance could be a possible task for next year's work party.

## **5. AOCB**

### ***Broadband***

Discussed under review of action points.

### ***Formation of Project Sub-Committee for Community Enterprise Centre***

It was agreed that the duties of the sub-committee would include reviewing architect plans and costings. Meetings will be held at least once a month. It was agreed that decisions could be made via email/telephone conference so as to prevent problems with logistics. Neil Campbell, Murdo Mackay and Dougie Ferguson were appointed to the committee. Anyone not present at the board meeting who would like to join or recommend an individual not on the board but with valuable skills to contact Duncan MacPherson.

### ***Moorings/Pontoon***

Prices for use of the pontoon will have to be decided and advertised on the Trust's website and also on a sign at the head of the beach. Moorings cannot be applied for until the local management agreement application is submitted to the Crown Estate.

### ***Allocation of Capital***

The directors were shown financial projections from the business plan; see appendix 3 and an estimated capital spend for 2014-15, see appendix 4. It was decided to go ahead as per the estimated capital spend. It was also agreed to investigate options for improving the access to the new shed and adjacent fank.

### ***Road Widening***

Luskentyre common grazings committee had been approached by CnES for permission to proceed with the road widening works between Luskentyre and Stockinish road end, but no approach had been made to the Trust. Duncan to contact Alex Macritchie at CnES.

### ***Resumption for Building Plot***

***Finlay Maclellan registered his interest as a Seilebost croft tenant and did not take part in the discussion.***

A small area of land outside of the development area at the Rubha Romagaidh development will have to be resumed as part of the agreement with HHP. It was decided to offer the Common Grazings Committee £1000 for the piece of land reflecting a *pro rata* share of the sale price.

### **Diary Dates for future meetings:**

- May 20<sup>th</sup>
- June 17<sup>th</sup>
- Aug 19<sup>th</sup>
- Sept 16<sup>th</sup>
- Oct 21<sup>st</sup>
- Nov 18<sup>th</sup>
- Dec 16<sup>th</sup>