

## MINUTES – DIRECTOR’S MEETING 17<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2014

### 1. **Attendance.**

Present: Rhoda MacDonald, Neil MacDonald, Norman Iain Mackay, Neil Campbell (Secretary), Roddy MacDonald, Murdo Mackay (Chairman), Finlay Maclellan, Duncan Macpherson (Commercial Development Manager), Lisa MacDonald (Development Officer) and Linda Green (Administrator).

Apologies: Dougie Ferguson and Fiona Mackenzie.

### 2. **Approval of Minutes 21<sup>st</sup> October 2014** (see appendix 1).

The minutes were unanimously approved.

### 3. **Review of Action Points**

#### - **Tackle BT on broadband provision**

Duncan has not yet been in touch with Alasdair Beveridge. Roddy brought it to the boards attention that there was a link on HIEs website directing you to BTs website with information on areas benefiting from next generation broadband and also an option to express an interest. It was decided to email all members and also to put a post on facebook encouraging everyone to express an interest and show that there is a high demand in the area.

#### - **Deed of servitude**

The croft tenant has agreed to pay £750 as the deed of servitude is neither essential or for a residential property.

#### - **Road works**

Pegs have been placed at the proposed road works between Stockinish and Luskentyre. The Trust as landowner has still not been contacted.

### 4. **Updates**

#### **Financial**

A report for the West Harris Trust was shown, see appendix 2.

- A payment for CEC Revenue is due later this month. All revenue costs are not covered by the grant meaning that a contribution will be required form the Trust at the end of the year.

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

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

**This item has been removed for confidentiality but will be restored when confidentiality is no longer required.**

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

OFGEM have asked for a curtailment report and also evidence that 7 Scaristavore used a large amount of electricity prior to the installation of the wind turbine. The Directors wished to make it

clear that they were very disappointed with the length of time it is taking OFGEM to register the turbine.

### ***Hebridean Way***

Chris Harris is currently on holiday meaning that a date has not yet been set to discuss plans with grazing committees.

### **Development Officer Report**

The report was noted, see appendix 4.

### **5. AOCB**

#### **Fundraising Group**

The West Harris Fundraising group met last week, minutes were shown, see appendix 5.

### **8 Horgabost**

The Trust has been informed that the owners of a decrofted piece of land have made an application to the Crofting Commission for the plot to be split into two plots. It was decided to submit the following view;

“Had it been in the Trust’s control the plot of land would be developed for the purpose it was originally intended i.e. as a business/permanent residence as this would be more in keeping with the Trust’s views and objectives.”

### **West Coast Energee**

John Daniel Peteranna of West Coast Energee (Uist) is looking for 100 sites in the Western Isles for 5kw wind turbines. The deal would be;

- The crofter provides the land on a croft/common grazing
- West Coast Energee carry out a site survey, submit planning applications and if successful install (at their own cost) up to 2 turbines
- The crofter gets free electricity
- West Coast Energee keeps FIT payments and export energy sales
- The landlord receives £200 per turbine/annum.

It was decided to contact West Coast Energee to gather more information on the project before advertising to the community.

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

- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December