

MINUTES – DIRECTOR’S MEETING 16th JUNE 2015

1. **Attendance.**

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

Apologies: Norman Iain Mackay and Fiona Mackenzie.

2. **Approval of Minutes 19th May 2015**

The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. **Review of Action Points**

- **Luskentyre Water Connection**

The Luskentyre water connection has been approved by Scottish Water so can now go ahead.

- **8 Horgabost**

The title and description have been received from Anderson Macarthur but the title plan is no different to the one already held by the Trust.

4. **Updates**

Financial

A report for the West Harris Trust was shown, see appendix 1.

Commercial Development Manager’s Report

The Report was noted, see appendix 2. 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.

Horgabost Wind Turbine

Ecodyn have submitted an amended planning application for the Horgabost wind turbine. As yet no public comments have been left.

Community Enterprise Centre

John Murray has informed Duncan that the project is approximately 2-3 weeks behind schedule as a result of not being able to blast the rock at the site due to the proximity of the water main. It is hoped that the site cabin will be in place by the end of next week.

Gill from Rural Design has requested that a meeting be planned to discuss the finishing of the building including potential colour schemes. It was decided that Alasdair Wiseman would be asked to have an input.

Plot Sales

Duncan met with the young couple offered a plot at Luskenytre who have decided not to accept the offer for the time being. They have decided that they would rather rent a house in West Harris in order to decide if they would like to live here.

Pontoon

Of the 45 modules sent to Stornoway for repair, 30 were damaged and have been repaired. There is another batch of potentially damaged modules waiting to be taken to Stornoway.

Development Officer's Report

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

Campervans

Scott Maciver has advised that 'Ritor Grass' would suit the type of ground at the school in order to create a hardstanding for campervans. Macivers are also looking into a chemical waste disposal point at the commercial enterprise centre.

Circus

An event page has been created on Facebook for the upcoming Circus, and so far over 200 people have indicated that they will attend. Steve Cousins has said that they are considering adding an extra day to their visit.

The organisers have asked that the Trust provide catering for the event. The fundraising committee have indicated that they will not be able to cater for such a large group.

Lisa asked whether the directors knew of anyone who had a drone that could film the circus on the machair. It was suggested that Lisa contact Jeeves Toor.

Community Resilience Fund

It was decided that the Trust would proceed with an application on its own rather than jointly with the other community councils/trusts as the geography of west Harris would make it fairly straightforward to draw up a resilience plan. It was agreed that the Trust apply for a large generator which would power the community centre and also some VHF radios. Lisa to send a questionnaire to all residents who are of a pensionable age which would include the question 'In the event of an emergency would you need help?'.

Privacy Policy

The privacy policy prepared by Lisa was approved by directors, see appendix 4.

5. AOCB

Crown Estate

It has come to Murdo's attention that there are two live Crown Estate leases in West Harris which should not be in place as the foreshore on which the leases are on belongs to the Trust. Murdo to follow up.

Challenger Bus

A letter has been received asking that the Trust consider making a donation to the challenger bus which is on the island week beginning 15/06/15. **It was decided to make a donation of £100.**

Empty Croft Homes Project

TIG have recently launched a project through which they hope to renovate a number of empty croft houses throughout the islands. They have asked for a list of potential houses requiring renovation to be forwarded to them. It was decided that this would be included in the next newsletter.

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

Local Plan

Murdo suggested a potential development plot behind 1 Luskentyre which could possibly take up to three houses. The old water supply for the village is located behind the plots and could potentially be used for a hydro project to supply power to the houses.

Financial Accounts to December 2014

The financial analysis was shown, see appendix 5.

The directors approved the draft accounts with amendment to the revenue funding for the community enterprise centre.

Beatz on the Beach

Murdo, Finlay and Neil met with the local police officer and also the organiser of 'Beatz on the Beach'. It was agreed that the event would run as a private party from 12-8pm on Saturday 4th July and that the police would make a drive by at 12pm, 4pm and 8pm. The organiser also agreed that they would organise toilets, bins, transport and that they would close the facebook event page and take down all posters. It materialised at the meeting that posters had not been taken down and the facebook page had not been closed. Neil to email event organiser.

Diary Dates for future meetings:

- August 18th
- September 15th
- October 13th
- November 17th
- December 15th