

MINUTES – DIRECTOR’S MEETING 17th NOVEMBER 2015

1. Attendance.

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

Apologies: Richard MacIennan and Fiona Mackenzie.

2. Approval of Minutes 27th October 2015

The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Review of Action Points

- Croft Tenancies

The cost of recent croft tenancies was discussed and it was agreed that the high price makes it impossible for young locals to purchase croft tenancies. It was agreed to contact the Crofting Commission when the Trust is aware of an assignation request and to be more aware of local demand for crofts.

4. Updates

Financial

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

The Big Lottery has informed Duncan that a revenue payment of £16,000 will be included with the capital grant claim in November.

Duncan presented a financial projection for the coming years, see appendix 2.

Commercial Development Manager’s Report

The Report was noted, see appendix 3.

Paic Niseaboist – HHP Housing

HHP have said that they plan to start building in February 2016 with the tender for the work going out shortly. HHP have predicted a 6 month build time.

Luskentyre House Plots

A meeting will take place at the Luskentyre House Plots on Tuesday 24th November with John Cop (SSE) and Duncan Mackay’s to discuss a start date for the installation of water and power at the plots.

Community Enterprise Centre

Concerns were raised about the slow progress on site and the apparent lack of builders on site – Duncan to raise with Rural Design. A meeting is to take place on Monday 23rd November to discuss choice of finishings.

Development Officer's Report

The Report was noted, see appendix 4. The following updates were given at the meeting:

Seilebost School

A summary report was received from Munro Gauld just prior to the meeting. To be discussed next month.

Community Emergency Plan

Vulnerable residents in the area were noted. A copy of the individual household plan will be included in the next newsletter, to be distributed week beginning 23rd November with a covering note explaining the bigger plan.

Careers Event

Lisa along with a representative from the North Harris Trust will be attending a careers convention in Sir E Scott School on Thursday 19th November.

AOCB

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

SSE Meeting

Duncan and Neil attended a meeting with representatives of SSE at which the proposed interconnector was discussed. Community groups are being asked to submit proposals in December/January in order to book space on the connector. If a group chooses to follow through with an application following a rough budget estimate of connection costs, an application fee of £250 will be due. A detailed quote for connection will be given and a deposit of £10,000 for larger projects will be requested. If more than one group in an area is interested in carrying out a project, it may be possible to set up a consortium to share the cost of applying. Local Energy Scotland is looking into the possibility of offering grants to cover the cost of reserving space on the interconnector. **It was agreed to investigate this further and to link with the work of the Flensburg students.**

The Cliff

A roof sheet is lifting slightly in strong winds. From an initial inspection it would appear that the screws have popped. Original builder/manufacturer to be contacted.

Events Committee

Rhoda informed directors that the date of the Christmas event has been changed from the 29th of December to the 30th.

Diary Dates for future meetings:

- December 15th
- January 12th
- February 16th
- March 15th
- April 19th
- May 17th
- June 14th
- August 16th
- September 13th
- October 11th (to be changed – School holiday)
- November 15th
- December 13th