

MINUTES – DIRECTOR’S MEETING 15th November

1. **Attendance:**

Present: Murdo MacKay (Chairman), Neil Campbell (Secretary), Rhoda MacDonald, , Norman Iain Mackay, George MacLeod, Finlay MacLennan, Duncan MacPherson (Commercial Development Manager), Anna Helfrich (Centre & Events Manager and Deborah Coghill (Administrator).

Murdo welcomed **George** to his first Directors’ Meeting and requested that Fiona be formally thanked for her work as a Director.

2. **Apologies:** Roddy Macdonald, Dougie Ferguson, and Neil MacDonald

3. **Declaration of Interest:** There were No Declarations of Interest

4. **Approval of Minutes 11th October 2016**

The Minutes were approved.

5. **Matters Arising:**

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

6. **Action Points**

Access Road to “The Cliff”: it was agreed that this item should be added to the list of Action Points. As previously Minuted, all that Action Points would be addressed once the new *Talla na Mara* Centre had been opened.

7. **Updates**

Financial

Monthly Report for October was presented (see Appendix 1) and duly noted.

Commercial Development Manager’s Report

The Report was duly noted (see Appendix 2).

- *This item has been removed for confidentiality but will be restored when confidentiality is no longer required*
- **Housing Proposal with TiG:** Duncan to have further discussions with TiG, to identify people who are looking for houses.

If the proposed TiG Housing Study is to include a survey of “significant employers” e.g Distillery, local Hotels, etc. then this will add an additional

£500 to the cost of the Survey. The Trust would apply to the Rural Housing Fund, but TiG would undertake the operation of the Survey.

Two potential development sites have been offered by crofters but others could be considered as well. It was therefore agreed to request options in the Trust Newsletter, and in *De Tha Dol*, and Grazings Committees were also to be approached. Under RHF the Trust could build houses for either sale or let. Further discussion to be held over until the next Directors' Meeting.

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- **HHP Housing:** The Official Opening is scheduled for Monday 5th December, to be conducted by the Housing Minister, Mr Kevin Stewart MSP. This was duly noted.
- **Hydro Scheme:** A Circuit Breaker was due to be installed on 5th December, so until that time, output was to be kept low.
- **Horgabost Wind Turbine:** The turbine appeared initially to have been working satisfactorily until after Duncan went on holiday! There had been some cases of damage to the Air Source Heat Pumps in the new houses, which may have been caused by voltage spikes linked to the turbine and/or the grid. Further investigations are ongoing.

CEM Report

The written Report was duly noted (see Appendix 3), and was further supplemented with a detailed oral update.

- **Talla na Mara:** For Health & Safety purposes, all glass panelling in the Centre is required to have writing and/or artwork designs displayed on it. It was decided that poetry from each of village Bards would be used for this purpose.

8. Health and Safety

The previously circulated Policies were duly approved. It was agreed that there SHOULD be a Designated Smoking Area some distance from the Main Entrance. It was agreed that dogs would not be allowed in the centre except for assistance dogs and that hooks for securing dogs could be installed outside the Centre, i.e. so that dogs could be tied there whilst their owners were inside the Centre.

9. AOCB

Broadband: The Scottish Government had recently announced that additional exchange areas would be enabled for superfast broadband in 2017, with Scarista being on the list. Exactly how much of the area would be covered would only be known after a full survey. The Trust would continue to press for full coverage for the whole area.

Land Sales Policy: It was agreed to defer this matter to the next meeting.

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

10. **Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 13th December 2016 at 7.30pm in Seilebost School.

Diary Dates for future meetings:

- January 17th
- February 14th
- March 14th
- April 18th
- May 16th
- June 20th
- August 15th
- September 19th
- October 10th
- November 15th
- December 12th