

MINUTES – DIRECTOR'S MEETING 21st MARCH 2017

1. Attendance:

Present: Neil Campbell (Secretary), Roddy Macdonald (Chairman), Dougie Ferguson, Rhoda Macdonald, Finlay MacIennan, Richard MacIennan, Duncan Macpherson (Commercial Development Manager), Anna Helfrich (Centre and Events Manager), Lisa MacDonald (Development Officer) and Linda Armstrong (Administrator).

Apologies: Murdo Mackay, George Macleod, Norman Iain Mackay and Neil Macdonald.

2. Declaration of Interest:

- Roddy Macdonald expressed an interest as a member of the Isle of Harris Golf Club.
- Rhoda Macdonald expressed an interest as a neighbour to the old Seilebost School and therefore stepped out of the meeting when storage at the site was discussed.
- Anna Helfrich expressed an interest as the owner of 2 Pairc Niseaboist and therefore stepped out of the meeting when the plot was discussed.

3. Approval of Minutes 21st February 2017

The minutes were approved.

4. Review of Action Points

- Arrange joint meeting with WHRL to review Flensburg report: date agreed 28/03/2017 at 7.30pm. CIRCULATE REPORT
- Official opening date: The directors agreed on a favoured choice for the official opening. Anna will follow up.
- Soundproofing – Talla na Mara – Unit 2: Dougie to drill hole in partition wall to see whether soundproofing was installed.
- Security of bar: fridges lockable, bar taps can be turned off and spirits to be moved to locked store room when the bar is not in use.
- Cleaning/handyman recruitment: Billy Fraser has been recruited as cleaner for Talla na Mara.
- Local control of foreshore and crown estate consultation: Duncan to submit a response suggesting that control of the foreshore should be devolved to community bodies who wish these powers and to -councils where local communities show no interest.
- Consultation on local development plan: Duncan had submitted a response highlighting the Luskentyre plots that were in the original plan and a potential Horgabost site as previously discussed for affordable housing.

5. Financial

Monthly WHT report for January was presented (see Appendix 1) and was duly noted.

The Big Lottery has given their approval for the reclaimed VAT to be used to cover the overspend on Talla na Mara and £15,000 for fixtures and fittings.

Commercial Development Manager's Report

The report was duly noted (see Appendix 2).

- **Pairc Niseaboist – Community Building**

SSE Septic Tank: An application will be made to SSE to request that they adopt the septic tank. If the application is unsuccessful, there is an agreement with HHP to set funds aside for maintenance.

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for confidentiality is passed, this will be reinstated.

Horgabost Wind Turbine: Pairc Niseaboist Power has paid for repairs to HHP housing required as a result of overvoltage on the Horgabost turbine. PNP will look to recover these costs. A claim is also required for loss of earnings whilst the turbine has been out of action.

- **Luskentyre Mast**

EE are exploring two different strategies, one to install a new mast, and the other to install a new dish on the existing mast. A £1500 early access fee will be due to the Trust.

- **BT**

The Trust has been without a phone line since moving to Talla na Mara in late February. An order was placed with BT several months before the move for an ISDN line. Only since moving to the building have BT discovered that there are in fact no ISDN lines in the Scarista exchange. Only now, several weeks later have instructions been passed to planners for a line to be installed.

In the meantime, all calls have been forwarded to a mobile phone, for which there is poor mobile phone reception at the centre resulting in many missed calls. A claim for compensation will be made to BT and it was decided that the press would be informed.

Centre and Events Manager's Report

The report was duly noted (see Appendix 3).

- **Talla na Mara – Weekend Cleaning**

Talla na Mara will be cleaned each evening. Campervan users will be able to access the toilets and showers during the night, meaning that they may not be clean for the next day. It was agreed that locks would be installed on both the ladies and gents toilets to restrict campervan access to the shower and disabled toilet, limiting the cleaning required the following morning.

- **Marquee**

It was agreed that the main supports would be moved on 28/03/2017.

The frame for the marquee will be erected shortly and left up during the summer season. Anna to look into the costs of having a contractor erect the frame in the future.

- **Projector**

There will be a training session for the use of the projector for staff and volunteers.

- **NHS Western Isles Health Promotion**

It was suggested that November may be a better month for the health promotion event as many locals go away in October.

Development Officer's Report

The report was duly noted (see Appendix 4).

- **Seilebost School**

A potential tenant has been identified for the School, who would look to hire the space for up to 6 months and move out whilst building work takes place. It was agreed to offer a rent inclusive of all costs.

A request has been received from ~~Calum Mackayan interested party who on behalf of Comann Eachdraidh who~~ are interested in using the school for a few days ~~whilst they sort through their exhibits~~. It was agreed to charge them £15/day on the understanding that they were not to store anything in the building.

Campervans: Dougie to advise Lisa on how best to make the toilets accessible to campervan users, whilst keeping other areas of the building secure.

RSPB: The RSPB will continue to use the School for storage. Will they be subject to additional rental?

- **Signage**

It was agreed that the Trust would look into improved access, signage and seating in the future.

- **John Muir Trust**

Volunteers to be asked to plant trees behind Talla na Mara and lay turf at the front. The Isle of Harris Golf Club have asked that more marram grass be planted.

6. Health and Safety

There was no update.

7. AOCB

~~*This item has been removed due to for confidentiality reasons. Once the need for confidentiality is passed, this will be reinstated.*~~

~~**Broadband:** Donnie Morrison (HIE) has indicated that cabling will be laid in Luskentyre and that a box will be installed in the future. Scarista exchange is still on track to be connected by the end of 2017. **NOT TO BE DISPLAYED ON WEBSITE**~~

~~*This item has been removed due to for confidentiality reasons. Once the need for confidentiality is passed, this will be reinstated.*~~

~~**Approval for Anna to have access to WHT bank accounts and also to approve Linda and Anna to get a debit card each for the WHT account:** Approved~~

Music video proposal: A request has been received for the use of Luskentyre beach. It was agreed to offer them the use of Seilebost School as a base and also suggest the use of Talla na Mara for catering.

Talla na Mara cattle grid: A concern has been raised regarding the safety of the location of the cattle grid. When approaching from the south, a tight turn is required which results in vehicles slipping when crossing the grid. It was agreed to ask Malcolm Maciver whether a rubberised paint could be used to improve grip.

Duncan MacPherson: Duncan will be leaving the Trust on the 31st of March but will continue to work to resolve outstanding issues with the centre build and Horgabost turbine on a self-employed basis. The directors took this opportunity to thank Duncan for his work at the Trust, describing his achievements as nothing short of miraculous.

8. **Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 18th April 2017 at 7.30pm at Talla na Mara.

Diary Dates for future meetings:

- May 16th
- June 20th
- August 15th
- September 19th
- October 10th
- November 14th
- December 12th