

MINUTES – DIRECTOR’S MEETING 22nd May 2018

1. Attendance

Present: Murdo Mackay (Chairman), Neil Campbell (Secretary), George Macleod, Neil MacDonald, Finlay MacLennan, Carol Melville, Rhoda MacDonald, Dougie Ferguson, Richard MacLennan, Linda Armstrong (Commercial Manager), Deborah Coghill (Administrator) and Kyle Mackinnon (Admin Assistant).

Apologies: Roddy MacDonald and Chris Loye

2. Declaration of Interest:

The Director’s register of interests was updated (appendix 1)

3. Approval of Minutes 17th April 2018

The minutes were approved.

4. Action Points

Cattle grid – Cattle grid painting will be left until snagging is completed.

Sporting rates – Meeting to be arranged with Russell Hird.

Housing – Grant of £10,000 received from the Island Housing fund to allow for a feasibility study to take place at Luskentyre and Horgabost.

Pairc Niseaboist Houses - Road signs installed but more is needed. It was decided to look into additional traffic controlling measures.

Bike Shelter – Work has started on the bike shelter. Foundations have been laid and we are now waiting for the shelter to be delivered.

5. Updates

Financial

Input of information to QuickBooks is almost complete. A report will be circulated to Director’s prior to the next meeting.

Commercial Manager’s Report (appendix 2)

Weddings – 2 wedding booked with 11 provisionally booked pending visit. Christy hopes to have a stall in the Co-op in Stornoway. Adverts to be placed in the De Tha Dol and the West Side local paper.

Exhibitions – A request for future exhibitors has been made via Facebook, with several people interested. It was agreed that work should have a focus on the Isle of Harris, local people should be given priority and that exhibitions would be lengthened up to 6 weeks in the summer and 3 months in the winter.

Luskentyre House Plots – The Porteous’ have asked that their plot size be increased from 0.1 ha to 0.18 ha. This was agreed.

The Shed – Jeeves moved out of the Cliff on 17/5 and Allan has now taken up the extra space. Lease to be rewritten to include the extra space, extend the lease term by 10 years and also the option of a rent review.

It was agreed to install a light switch for the Grazings committee accessible from their own side.

Camping – Ann Ferguson to be asked to resume the out of hours service due to nuisance visits being made to both the neighbouring house and business workshops. A private sign to be purchased for the private residence and the noticeboard to be moved to the mural wall as more visible.

Facilities Manager's Report (appendix 3)

PAT Testing – Pat testing has been completed at Seilebost School and the Cliff with Talla na Mara to be completed in the coming weeks.

Building Manuals – Some manuals have been received from John Murray's.

Harris Forum update

Meetings are held every second month. Future minutes will be shared with WHT directors.

6. Health and Safety

One minor accident was recorded in the past month.

7. AOCB

Broadband: Carol asked for an update on the Broadband situation. The Scarista cabinet has been installed but the Seilebost and Luskentyre cabinets require to reapply for planning permission.

Office Equipment: It was agreed to purchase a new laptop.

Noticeboard request: A request from the Machair Kitchen to install an exterior noticeboard under the main door canopy was approved. The board will be used to display opening times and menus, a legal requirement.

Tourism Infrastructure Fund – Murdo Mackay left the room while discussing this matter.

The application is through the first round and planning permission is ready to be submitted. CnES has indicated that road access below the site will not be permitted due to visibility. Pairc Niseaboist tenants would have preferred this option as would mean less traffic on the already busy road. It was suggested by Dougie that the denial of the road access be appealed.

Fences at Pairc Niseaboist – Richard asked about putting up fences around the houses to give the children a safe area to play. The tenants were under the

impression that the Trust didn't want fences around the houses but that is not the case. If fences are to be installed, this would be the responsibility of HHP/tenants.

Aspiring Communities Fund – *Social benefit once the Trust is sustainable was discussed. It was agreed to investigate the option of an electric community vehicle and also to look into a community grant scheme. Both are future aspirations of the Trust.*

National Park – Directors were asked if they were supportive of investigating National Park status for Harris. It was agreed that the Trust was supportive of this idea in principle.

Skye Triangle (appendix 4) – The Trust has been given the opportunity to comment on the proposal to suspend ferry services between Uig and Tarbert for a minimum of a 6 week period in 2019/20. It was agreed that whilst neither is ideal, the Trust's preference would be Oct/Nov 2019 as will cause less disruption to tourism. It was agreed that the response would include a request for assurances to be made on an increased service between Stornoway and Ullapool during the period.

Muir Burn Policy – Agreed to change the wording to allow for notification to be made during two dates. Draft to be sent to Grazings committees for comment.

8. **Brainstorming**

Cockle fishing

Surplus funds – Benches/memorial benches

Pet cemetery

9. **Date of Next Meeting:**

June 19th in Talla na Mara

Diary Dates for future meetings:

- August 21st
- Sept 18th
- Nov 20th
- December 18th