

MINUTES – DIRECTOR’S MEETING 22nd August 2023 at 6.30pm

1. Attendance

Present: Neil Campbell (Secretary), Neil MacDoanld, Rhoda MacDonald, Mairi MacKenzie, Roddy MacDonald, Richard MacLennan, Linda Armstrong (Commercial Manager) and Deborah Coghill (Office Manager)

2. Apologies: Norman MacKay (Chair), Andrew MacDonald, Finlay MacLennan and George MacLeod

Due to the absence of the Chair, Rhoda MacDonald chaired the meeting.

Ben Inglis-Grant, the Peatland Action Project Officer was due to give a presentation at the meeting but was not available so it is hoped that he will attend the September meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest: No declarations of interest

4. Approval of Minutes: The minutes 20th June 2023 were approved.

5. Matters Arising/Review of Action Points: The Directors wanted to extend their sympathies to Murdo MacKay on the death of his mother last week.

6. Updates:

Financial: No financial report

Commercial:

JMT: Carbon Emission Land Tax – The John Muir Trust are requesting the West Harris Trust’s support on their proposal to the Scottish Government that large landowners should be charged a tax. It was agreed that Linda would circulate the letter to the Directors and they could make a decision at a later date.

Climate Hebrides: They have been appointed by the Scottish Government as the Outer Hebrides Action Hub and they are looking for expressions of interest from members about a Greenhouse Gas Emission Audit. The Directors agreed that Linda should go ahead and express an interest in an audit of this kind on behalf of the Trust.

PhD Student: Jo MacDonald has been appointed to the post and should be in place by October. The project requires the Trust to fund a Community Development Expert to provide training to the student. The Directors agreed to a budget of between £2k-£3k for this.

Luskentyre Cemetery Parking: Discussed.

Dissertation Interview Request: It was agreed that Rhoda MacDonald would be interviewed by Rachel Campbell on the subject “Community Buy-outs”

Wayleave: Openreach are seeking to install a cable and duct to the Luskentyre Vodafone Mast through the common grazing. This has been agreed by the Directors and the Luskentyre Common Grazing Committee. Openreach are responsible for informing all other stakeholders.

Restaurant:

The Directors agreed that due to the staffing issues the restaurant would continue with its current opening hours until the 16th of September and then from the 18th of September reduce the opening hours and only be open for lunches on Monday to Wednesday and then for lunches and dinners on Friday and Saturday. Winter opening hours would then be in place from 21st October.

Harris Forum:

Member organisations asked to consider whether the Forum ought to be able to have a bank account, not currently permitted under its articles. WHT Directors felt that the Forum should not be permitted to open a bank account/hold funds.

7. **Health and Safety:** No issues were reported.
8. **AOCB:** Tuesday 26th September was set as the date for the AGM.
9. **Brainstorming:** There were no specific matters raised under Brainstorming.
10. **Close:** The Meeting finished at 7.52pm

Date of Next Meeting: 19th September 2023

Proposed dates for 2023

24th October

21st November

19th December