

MINUTES – DIRECTOR’S MEETING 16th March 2021 at 6.30pm by Zoom

1. **Attendance**

Present: Diana Calvert, Neil Campbell (Secretary), Neil MacDonald, Rhoda MacDonald, Roddy MacDonald, Norman Ian MacKay, Finlay MacLennan, Linda Armstrong (Commercial Manager), Iain MacIver (Community Participation Project Officer) and Deborah Coghill (Administrator)

Apologies: Murdo MacKay (Chairman)

Appointment of Acting Chairman: In the absence of Mr Murdo MacKay, Chairman, Mr Roddy MacDonald took the Chair, with the approval of the Meeting.

2. **Declaration of Interest:** No declarations of Interest

3. **Minutes of 19th January 2021:** The Minutes were approved.

4. **Review Action Points/Matters Arising:**

Facilities Block: Ordered and due end of May/beginning of June.

Seilebost School: Slight delay in finishing the decking due to Covid 19 and also the weather has held back the painting of the outside and the recoating of the roof. HIE have allowed an extension into April due to this. Extra spending was agreed so that the heating system can be controlled from TnM. This should allow better control over the heating levels and save the Trust some money, along with being able to keep an eye on the oil tank levels. We are still within the budget of £150k.

Booking System: Has now been implemented and seems to be running smoothly.

Horticulture Project: Iain and Romy have finalised a funding package for the Polycrub. Unfortunately, AMK, who are installing that, are not available until July. In the meantime the fencing and installing of some beds will go ahead

Drainage under the Road at TnM: Waiting for Richard to mark on a plan exactly what is required, so that CalMax can quote on that.

5. **Minutes of 10th March 2021:** The Minutes were approved.

6. **Updates:**

Financial

February Profit & Loss YTD figures and March Cash Flow Projections

Commercial Manager’s Report

Insurance: Various new categories of insurance cover were discussed amongst the Directors and approved or declined.

Cockles: The study has been circulated, showing a decline in the numbers since the last survey was done. It seems that local management is being encouraged and there is a meeting on Wednesday 17th March to discuss this.

Housing: The sale of the plot at No. 12 Luskentyre is nearing completion. Additional land has been requested by No. 13 Luskentyre and the Directors agreed to approach the Grazings with regards to this.

Camping: April has been closed out in advance and the bookings for the following months are looking very promising.

Croft Camping: It was agreed to go ahead and share the Croft Camping information. Clara will produce some posters to explain the Do's and Don'ts of being in the outdoors and adhering to the Out Door Access Code, as part of the Visitor Management Strategy.

Camping Spots: The Council have done a U-turn with these and allowed us to continue with them. The Camping Spot signs will be changed and a new payment system via mobile phones will be on it.

Camping Employee: Linda hopes to get this position advertised as soon as possible and will be looking at a Mid April start date for the Camping Employee

Seilebost School: The Directors agreed for a new sign to be put up at the end of the road indicating the Camp Site to replace the old School sign.

Visitor Management Strategy: The Visitor Management Strategy is nearing completion and there seems to be a consensus of views as to what the problems are across Harris. This should be completed by the end of the month and will be broken down into three part of recommendations. These three areas are Immediate responses (Quick Fixes) Communication and Infrastructure.

Roam Outer Hebrides: The Directors do not feel that this is something that the Trust should take on.

Bench: A bench has been donated by the MacFarlane brothers in memory of their parents. The safety access has been approved and it was thought that this should now be OK but Finlay has agreed to take a look at the position just to make sure.

Renewables: All the parts for the Harbon Turbine are now on the island and work is due to start next week. Following some adjustments the Directors approved the Safe Working Procedures.

Harris Forum: The Food and Drink Sub Group are looking at a project for a local marketplace where local food and drink would be sold and the Council has provided a grant of £12k to carry out a feasibility study on that project. The Harris Economic Recovery Forum is also going to get a grant of between £25K and £30K from the Council to take forward any projects more quickly. eg For Feasibility studies or Business Plans.

Short Term Lets: Concern was raised about how the licence scheme would be worked so this has been withdrawn. Concern was raised that there was no community

representative on the Working Group so a representative from an organisation called PLACE was suggested to join it along with someone from a more remote setting.

UK Community Renewal Fund: To replace the EU Funding Schemes and may be of benefit to the Trust. This is for revenue funding for feasibility studies to have projects ready for applying to the Share Prosperity Fund which will open in 2022 and have a more Capital Funding aspect to it. It is aimed at 100 prosperity areas which the Western Isles falls into. The Visitor Strategy management Project may throw up some infrastructure projects that the Trust need and this would be a good fund to consider.

Fires: The Directors felt that a policy of beach fires was OK but not Machair ones.

7. **Harris Forum:** Visitor Management Strategy would be representative of the whole of Harris. Grant Fulton now working on the Rodel Project. Neil MacDonald and Linda are still attending the meetings.
8. **Aspiring Communities:** Iain presented his Report.
9. **Health and Safety: Renewables:** Safe Working Procedure as discussed above.
10. **AOCB**
Broadband: Still waiting. Expected in Seilebost in April and at the Schoolhouse in August
Tern TV: Nothing further has been heard. Iain looking projects for Ben Fogel to get involved in.
11. **Close:** Meeting finished at 7.38pm.
12. **Next Meeting :** 20th April 2021

Proposed dates for 2021

18th May

22nd June

17th August

21st September

19th October

16th November

21st December