

DRAFT MINUTES OF WEST HARRIS TRUST AGM 26 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7.30 PM IN TALLA NA MARA

1. Members present

Neil Campbell, George MacLeod, Mairi Mackenzie, Neil MacDonald, Finlay MacLennan, Rhoda Macdonald, Norman Iain Mackay, Rhoda Campbell, Isobel Mackay, Richard MacLennan, Andrew Macdonald, Geoff Calvert, Diana Calvert, Richard Thomas, Julie Thomas, Murdo Mackay, D J MacSween, D I MacLennan, Tony Scherr, Heather Scherr, D J Morrison, Mairi McCuish, Bill Cross, Lucy Toor, Ranai Toor

Non Members present

John Moffat (MJG), Janet Miles, Alan McDougall, Ellen McDougall, A Bartlett, Norma Macleod

Apologies

Peter Godfrey, Kathleen MacLeod, Kate MacLeod, Flora MacLeod, Roddy MacDonald, Morag MacDonald, Morag Munro, Margaret MacLeman, Danny MacLeman, Agnes Cross, Aman Toor

Other Business

The Chairman agreed that Tony Scherr read a statement prior to the main business of the meeting commencing.

Mr Scherr read out a statement relating to the incorrect inclusion of his property Title in the Estate's Title. Mr Scherr was invited to arrange a meeting to discuss this matter, an AGM not being the correct forum to discuss individual matters.

Tony and Heather Scherr left the meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes of AGM on 27 September 2022

Proposed: Mairi McCuish Seconded: Norman Iain Mackay

3. Approval of Minutes of EGM on 21 February 2023

With amendment to item 6 to read *"The resolution was approved by a simple majority, however it subsequently came to light that it did not achieve the 75% required and therefore the proposed resolution will not take effect, as communicated to all members in a letter dated 28th February 2023"*.

Proposed: Neil MacDonald Seconded: Andrew MacDonald

4. Chairman's Welcome and Reports

Projects were highlighted. Acknowledgement of Murdo Mackay's contribution made over the years. Neil Campbell's contribution also acknowledged. Norman paid tribute to the hard work of staff over the last year under challenging circumstances.

The staff report was presented.

5. Presentation of Annual Accounts

John Moffat (MJG) presented the accounts.

A number of questions were received from those present and answered.

6. Fixing of Annual Membership Fee

To remain the same i.e. £1 for new members and no annual charge for existing members.

Proposed: Neil Campbell Seconded: Mairi Mackenzie

7. Appointment of Auditors

Mann Judd Gordon to continue as auditors.

Proposed: George Macleod Seconded: Mairi McCuish

8. Election of Directors

One third of elected Directors resigning, as per the terms of our articles at point 17 – Norman Iain Mackay and Neil Campbell. Norman Iain was willing to be re-appointed. There were no objections to this.

There are three vacancies for Directors on The Board.

A question was received about the minimum number of Directors that could be on the Board. This is 3.

As an outgoing director, Neil Campbell read out a personal statement in which he highlighted the significant achievements of the Trust since the purchase from the Scottish Government in 2010. He acknowledged the substantial contribution of volunteer directors and staff, particularly over the past 12 months which have been exceptionally challenging. Difficulties in recruiting staff and continued growth of Trust operations have had an impact on staff wellbeing. Neil went on to urge members to play whatever part they can to sustain the community for future generations.

9. Any Other Business

- Q. A question was raised about Minutes of board meetings that have taken place in 2023 not being available on the website.**

A. There is no legal requirement for the Trust to make the Minutes available online. Due to workload, work has had to be prioritised. However should anyone wish to see Minutes, please contact the office.

Q. A questions was asked about whether or not nominated members (Grazing Committees) had voted at the recent EGM.

A. A Nominated Member (Grazing Committee) is not eligible to vote at any general meeting. If an individual is an Ordinary Member, as is the case with all current Nominated Directors, they are eligible to vote at a general meeting in their capacity as an Ordinary Member.

Q. A question was asked about whether the previous Chairman was a member of a Grazings Committee and thus ineligible to hold the post of Chairman of the West Harris Trust.

A. The Trust Articles of Association state that the Chairman and Vice-Chair must be Elected Directors. The previous Chairman was an Elected Director. It was pointed out that being a member of the grazing committee does not preclude an Ordinary Member from becoming an Elected Member.

Q. A question was asked about the land sale in the accounts.

A. This was a plot sale.

Richard Thomas presented a statement and questions regarding the water pipe to his property. It was intimated that an AGM was not the forum to address queries relating to individual matters. The Trust is awaiting further information and once received will make contact with Mr Thomas.

Scott Bennett gave a vote of thanks to the Chair.

The Chairman then closed the meeting.