

MINUTES – DIRECTOR’S MEETING 22nd AUGUST 2017

1. **Attendance:**

Present: Murdo Mackay (Chair), Neil Campbell (Secretary), Roddy Macdonald, Neil Macdonald, Finlay Maclennan, Richard Maclennan, Rhoda Macdonald, Dougie Ferguson, Norman Iain Mackay, Anna Helfrich (Commercial Manager), Linda Armstrong (Office Manager), Mark Crichton (Marketing Coordinator), Cllr Paul Finnegan and Cllr John Mitchell.

Apologies: George Macleod

2. **Declaration of Interest:**

3. **Approval of Minutes 27th June 2017**

The minutes were approved.

4. **Review of Action Points**

- **Talla na Mara official opening** - date agreed for opening 17/11/2017. If unable to get a celebrity it was agreed to ask either the oldest/youngest resident.
- **Camping Spot Sign** - the sign at Seilebost has been removed.
- **Septic Tank** – despite having been emptied a number of weeks ago, there continues to be a smell from the septic tank and complaints from HHP tenants.

5. **Updates**

Financial

Monthly WHT reports for June and July (Appendix 1 and 2), quarterly PNP report (Appendix 3) and quarterly WHRL report (Appendix 4) were duly noted.

Commercial Manager’s Report

The report was duly noted (see Appendix 5).

- **Recording of oral history** – equipment belonging to Community Land Scotland for the recording of oral history will be in Harris over the winter. Anna proposed that the equipment be available on certain days throughout the winter to record the history of West Harris.
- **The Cliff Extension** - Finlay reported that the Seilebost Grazings committee are not in favour of the proposed extension to the Cliff due to the impact on turning and parking. Anna to meet Finlay at the site to discuss alternatives.
- **Christmas Events** - It was agreed to hold a casual/housewarming style community event between Christmas and New Year.
- **Photography Competition** – Competition to find 12 pictures of West Harris to be used in a calendar to raise funds for the Trust.

- **Kyle Mackinnon** - Directors and staff would like to formally thank Kyle for his hard work. Kyle has been employed over the summer to assist with customer service and weddings. His last day will be Friday 1st September.

Development Officer's Report

The report was duly noted (see Appendix 6).

- **Seilebost School** – Comments on the draft plans for Seilebost School;
 - Is turning circle sufficient to allow for larger campervans
 - Is it necessary to tar car parking area other than the disabled space
- **Climate Challenge Fund** - Doesn't fall within criteria.

Land and Crofting Report

The report was duly noted (see Appendix 7).

- **House Plot Allocation** – *This item has been removed for confidentiality purposes. It will be returned when the need for confidentiality has passed.*
- **Niseaboist Mast** - There was a resumption of the land in 2001 making 100% of rental due to the Trust.

Marketing Report

The report was duly noted (see Appendix 8).

- **Signage** – It was agreed that the best location for additional signage for Talla na Mara would be 3 miles to the north and 3 miles to the south of the entrance. It was also thought that the sign at the gate could be raised to improve visibility.
- **Pontoon** - It was agreed that the pontoon's use was not clear. This will be reviewed prior to the start of next season.

6. Health and Safety

There was no update.

7. AOCB

- **Broadband** – Donnie Morrison has suggested that planning permission is to be submitted shortly for cabinets in West Harris including Luskentyre.
- **Strengthening Communities September Aviemore** – Volunteers required.
- **AGM/increase number of directors** - It was agreed to propose an increase in the number of directors from 10 to 12. Maggie (Anderson Macarthur) to draft wording.
- **Archaeology at Horgabost** – The report was noted (see Appendix 9).
A report is due to be published shortly on findings from a dig carried out in Horgabost in 2010 and 2011. Scott Bennett has suggested that an exhibition of the findings, which are considered to be significant, could take place at Talla na Mara.

- **Harris Forum** – A Harris Forum consisting of a representative from each of the community councils, all three councillors and representatives from the community trusts has been formed. It is proposed that the group will meet 2 to 4 times each year to discuss/act on matters which affect Harris in its entirety. The next meeting is planned for Tuesday 3rd October.

8. **Brainstorming**

- Luskentyre campsite
- Chemical waste/campervan service station
- Extend campervan site licence (currently Easter – end September)

9. **Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 19th September 2017

Date of AGM: Thursday 21st September 2017

Diary Dates for future meetings:

- October 10th
- November 14th
- December 12th