**MINUTES – DIRECTOR’S MEETING 20th September 2016**

1. **Attendance.**

Present: Roddy Macdonald (Acting Chairman), Neil Campbell (Secretary), Rhoda MacDonald, Dougie Ferguson, Norman Iain Mackay, Richard MacLennan, Duncan MacPherson (Commercial Development Manager), Anna Helfrich (Centre & Events Manager and Deborah Coghill (Administrator).

1. **Apologies:** Murdo MacKay, Fiona MacKenzie, Finlay MacLennan,
2. **Declaration of Interest:** There were No Declarations of Interest
3. **Approval of Minutes 16th August 2016**

The minutes were approved.

1. **Action Points**

It was agreed that the joint meeting of WHT and WHRL directors would take place once *Talla na Mara* had been opened.

1. **Updates**

***Financial***

Monthly Report for August was presented (see Appendix 1) and duly noted.

***Commercial Development Manager’s Report***

The Report was duly noted (see Appendix 2). The final version of the **Harris Plan** had been e-mailed to Duncan that day (20th September) and it was agreed that he, Duncan, would forward the Plan’s final version on to the Directors. It was further agreed that the Harris Plan should be utilised to revise the WHT Business Plan, once *Talla na Mara* was operational.

Some concern was expressed at the volume of passenger traffic decanting from **Cruise ships** berthed in Lewis, and visiting Harris in coachloads, for whom at present insufficient toilet facilities exist, and for whom it is currently impossible to make contingency plans without some **prior warning** whether from the Comhairle or the Stornoway Harbour authorities, or whomsoever the relevant body should be. WHT would need to be informed of potential numbers visiting Harris from these ships particularly if a stop is envisaged at *Talla na Mara*.

***CEM Report***

The Report was duly noted (see Appendix 3), but Anna supplemented the written Report with a detailed verbal update.

The Directors confirmed that Anna’s approach of maximising the community activities in the building, in conjunction with supporting commercial activities was the correct one.

1. **AOCB**

***Broadband:*** Following meetings with Duncan on 22nd and 23rd August respectively, Alasdair Allan MSP has agreed to write again to the relevant Holyrood department and Humza Yousaf MSP has undertaken to investigate why it appears that no service will be available to *Talla na Mara* when the principal fibre cable will be running right in front of the building.

***Land Sales Policy***: In Murdo’s absence it was decided to defer this matter to the next meeting.

***Plot sale request:*** A request for land on which to build a holiday home to a high access standard was declined as the proposer would not intend to live permanently in the area.

***Housing Study – TiG:*** Following an initial meeting TIG have submitted a proposal for assessing sites for housing development. The Trust could apply to the Rural Housing Fund to cover the costs of the study.

***Wedding Website:*** All the content is now ready and awaits Norman Iain’s attention.

***Restaurant Name:*** The directors agreed the restaurant name as proposed by the tenants with a suggestion for a small change to the logo.

***National Park for Harris:*** An email had been received from the Scottish Council for National Parks (SCNP) asking if WHT (In conjunction with North Harris Trust and HDL) would support asking CnES to reconsider its position on a potential national park for Harris. The Directors were happy to look at this subject again noting the original proposal supported by the local community was for a community-led National Park.

***Armistice Parade 12th November:*** A Wreath has been ordered on behalf of WHT and Neil volunteered to approach Neil MacDonald to lay the Wreath at the War Memorial again this year.

***Proposed Special Protection Area:*** A proposed marine SPA that would include inshore waters off the West Side of Harris has been proposed by SNH. The Directors considered that there were no issues of sufficient concern to merit a response from the Trust.

1. **Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 11th October 2016 at 7.30pm in Seilebost School.

**Diary Dates for future meetings:**

* November 15th
* December 13th