

MINUTES – DIRECTOR’S MEETING 23rd MAY 2017

1. Attendance:

Present: Murdo Mackay (Chairman), Neil Campbell (Secretary), Rhoda Macdonald, Finlay Maclellan, Dougie Ferguson, Richard Maclellan, Anna Helfrich (Commercial Manager), Lisa Macdonald (Development Officer) and Linda Armstrong (Office Manager).

Apologies: Roddy Macdonald, Neil Macdonald and George Macleod.

2. Declaration of Interest:

3. Approval of Minutes 23rd April 2017

The minutes were approved.

4. Review of Action Points

- **Cockle Pickers** - One of the cockle pickers has made contact and has said that they will no longer take their vehicles on to the machair or beach. They asked whether they should stop camping on the machair and were directed to the Seilebost Grazings Committee.
- **The Cliff** - A quote of £650 from K. Maclellan was accepted to put type 1 on the access road. (Lisa to confirm) It was suggested that the council be asked to apply spray and chip on top of the type 1.
- **Marquee** - It was agreed to get a group of volunteers together to erect the marquee frame on Monday 12th June.
A quote received from Malcolm Maciver to investigate the option of installing a winch was approved.
- *This item has been removed for confidentiality purposes and will be returned once the need for confidentiality has passed.*
- **Land for cultivation** – Contract approved. Agreed to discourage tenants from constructing any permanent structures.
- **Waste ground opposite Talla na Mara** – Rocks were not replaced after ground was used for site storage during the construction of Talla na Mara. It was agreed to install a gate to prevent overnight parking.
- **Handyman** – It was agreed to pay Billy Fraser time and a half when doing maintenance around Talla na Mara.

5. Financial

Monthly WHT report for April (Appendix 1) was duly noted.

Commercial Development Report

The report was duly noted (see Appendix 2).

- **Talla na Mara water supply** – Duncan has been advised that a 32mm meter would be sufficient, as opposed to the 63mm originally suggested. This will result in significant savings. The 32mm meter was approved.

- **Fire Safety:** Western Isles Fire Protection have confirmed that there is nothing in the regulations to prevent the Trust from renting the space to the Porteous's if any potential risk was mitigated eg not using the laundry whilst the unit behind is in use. (Anna to ask for information on regulations). If the issue cannot be resolved, the contract could potentially be void.

Centre and Events Manager's Report

The report was duly noted (see Appendix 3).

- **Food Fair** – Postponed until August
- **Seilebost School (possible use)** – A local businessman is looking for premises for a chocolate making/cookery school business. It was agreed that the renovation of the building had to take place before considering tenants.
- **Plumbing Jobs** – It was agreed that a number of tradesmen (plumbers, electricians, joiners) should be identified with contact details to hand in case of any emergencies.
- **Machair Wedding** – Anna has been approached by a couple looking to hold a wedding on Seilebost Machair in 2018. They have asked if they can use the school for toilets and the kitchen. Due to the planned renovation of the school, it is not known what condition the building will be in and whether access will be possible. It was agreed to explain our position and suggest that if they did choose to go ahead with the wedding, they would need to hire in toilets.

Development Officer's Report

The report was duly noted (see Appendix 4).

- **VHF Test** – The set of VHF radios purchased using the SSE Resilience funding were distributed to directors in order to carry out a test of the system. Date of test to be arranged.
- **Broadband** – Lisa to ask for an update from HIE.

6. Health and Safety

There was no update.

7. AOCB

8. Brainstorming

A new section in the agenda, to encourage discussion on potential future projects for the Trust.

- HIE Development Plan to be updated
Use AGM as a platform to put forward plans for the future of the Trust.

- Will there be surplus electricity when the turbine is up and running? If so, would be a good idea to identify a project/business that requires a lot of electricity.
- Housing
- Seaweed
- Record history of West Harris

9. **Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 20th June 2017 at 7.30pm at Talla na Mara.

Diary Dates for future meetings:

- August 22nd
- September 19th
- October 10th
- November 14th
- December 12th