

## MINUTES – DIRECTOR’S MEETING 19<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 7PM

### 1. **Attendance:**

Present: Roddy Macdonald (Chair), Neil Campbell (Secretary), Murdo Mackay, Neil MacDonald, Finlay MacLennan, Rhoda MacDonald, Norman Iain Mackay, Richard MacLennan, Anna Helfrich (Commercial Manager), Linda Armstrong (Land and Finance Manager) and Lisa MacDonald (Development Officer).

**Apologies:** George Macleod and Mark Crichton (Marketing Coordinator).

### 2. **Declaration of Interest:**

### 3. **Approval of Minutes 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2017**

The minutes were approved with amendment to the proposed extension to the Cliff. Support was not forthcoming from the fank users, not the Grazings committee.

### 4. **AGM Preparations**

- The format of the of the AGM was agreed.
- Murdo Mackay informed the meeting of his intention to resign as Chairman following the AGM but would be happy to remain a director with special responsibilities.

Murdo Mackay gave his apologies and left the meeting.

### 5. **Review of Action Points**

- **Broadband** - It was agreed that Lisa would write to our MP and MSP.
- **Talla na Mara Official Opening** – Anna remains hopeful that Ben Fogle will be in attendance.
- **Dyke Maintenance/Repair** – John Muir volunteers have gathered some of the loose stone around Talla na Mara which it is hoped will be used for a stone seating area. Anna has requested a quote from Angus Williams for dry stone walling training.
- **Talla na Mara Cattle Grid** – The cattle grid is to be painted with a non slip paint. A fine dry day is required.
- **Talla na Mara Snagging** – Anna has requested that the snagging be brought forward to early January to coincide with the restaurant closing. Landscaping of the grounds was discussed and agreed to be added to the list of snagging. It was thought that the grounds should have been destoned by the contractor.
- **Talla na Mara No Smoking Policy** – To be discussed with the Machair Kitchen.

### 6. **Updates**

#### **Financial**

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

Annual accounts for the West Harris Trust to year end 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 were presented and approved.

### **Commercial Manager's Report**

The report was duly noted (see Appendix 2).

- **Talla na Mara Unit 4** – It was agreed that the laundry would be relocated to the shed and that the tenants of unit 4 could lease the original laundry area.
- **Community Survey** – It was agreed that Anna would look into funding to enable a repeat of the Community Survey to take place.
- **Awards** – HIE have nominated the Trust for a Green Development Award and an application has been submitted for a SURF award.

### **Development Officer's Report**

The report was duly noted (see Appendix 3).

- **Seilebost School** – It was agreed that Lisa would not proceed with a funding application to Leader for a possible artist's residency as the closing date for applications was 11/10/17.

Costings for a redevelopment of the school had not been received in time for the meeting. It was suggested that alternative funding could be sought for the redevelopment of the toilet block to allow a higher price to be charged for the campervan hook ups.

At present, the two classrooms have been let on a short term basis which is helping to cover the running costs of the building. It was agreed that if the rooms were to continue to be let, they would have to be re advertised and the rent increased.

- **Rural Housing** – Lisa had received three quotes for the feasibility work on housing sites. It was agreed to accept TIGs quotation.

### **Land and Crofting Report**

The report was duly noted (see Appendix 4).

- **Pontoon Insurance Claim** – The pontoon has suffered significant damage and has therefore been removed from the water following a shorter than normal season. The insurance provider has been informed that a claim will be likely. It was suggested that if the pontoon goes out next year the format could be changed to shorter and wider to prevent further damage.

### **7. Health and Safety**

There was no update.

### **8. AOCB**

### **9. Brainstorming**

- **Camping** – Camping/campervan facilities and income to be reviewed at next month's meeting. Aim to identify where improvements can be made.
- **Campervan Licence** – Lisa to contact CnES to enquire whether the campervan licence at Talla na Mara can be extended. It is expected that demand will continue in to October and at present the licence requires the site to close at the end of September.
- **West Harris Trust Leaflet** – To be updated.
- **Wedding Fair at Talla na Mara**

10. **Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017 (Apologies from Roddy Macdonald and Neil MacDonald).

**Date of AGM:** Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017

**Diary Dates for future meetings:**

- November 14<sup>th</sup>
- December 12<sup>th</sup>