**MINUTES – DIRECTOR’S MEETING 23rd February 2016**

Prior to the actual Meeting, Directors met with the Flensburg group to hear about what they are doing and how progress is being made.

1. **Attendance.**

Present: Murdo Mackay (Chairman), Neil Campbell (Secretary), Dougie Ferguson, Roddy Macdonald, Finlay MacLennan, Duncan MacPherson (Commercial Development Manager), Lisa MacDonald (Development Officer), Anna Helfrich (Centre & Events Manager) and Deborah Coghill (Administrator).

1. **Apologies:** Neil MacDonald, Rhoda MacDonald, Norman Iain Mackay, Richard MacLennan
2. **Approval of Minutes 19th January 2016**

The minutes were approved.

1. **Review of Action Points**

Duncan had phoned Pete Middleton of CnES regarding the Comhairle’s position on local Crown Estate assets. He was not sure if there was a clear position and would come back with information.

Remove Live Leases/Crown Estate from future lists.

1. **Updates**

***Financial***

A monthly report for the West Harris Trust was shown (see Appendix 1). It was agreed

that there should be a Site Visit of Directors to the CEC on Friday 26 February.

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

The Report was noted (see Appendix 2).

***HHP*** hope to appoint a contractor next week (beginning of March).

***Luskentyre Plots*** -the old electricity poles had been taken down that day (23 February). Duncan has had another enquiry about a plot, which he intends to follow up. A few ground marker pegs will need replacing and/or adjusting.

***Harris Plan*** – Potential Bays of Harris projects are being added to the Plan and the Draft Plan will then be sent out for Community Consultation.

***Sunday Opening***: As the previous Directors’ Meeting had appeared to be evenly split over the question of Sunday opening, it was decided to leave the policy as one of Six Day opening subject to review as necessary in the future.

***Development Officer’s Report***

The Report was noted (see Appendix 3).

***Flensburg Students:*** It was agreed to encourage people in the community to

attend the Information Evening due to be held on Thursday 17 March. The group

would be using the Seilebost School premises at weekends. The Trust agreed to

pay for the Flensburg group to attend the RNLI Bangers & Mash Evening.

***Seilebost School:*** It was agreed that at the Flensburg Information Evening (see

above) there would be a short consultation with those members of the community

who were present concerning the progress being made and the plans for the

future development of the school.

***Community Resilience Application***: As well as funding the flasks it was **agreed** that

the Trust should also part-fund a Storage Shed for the generator and demonstrate

an ability to maintain said generator.

***Circus 2016:*** Lisa reported that she had heard back from Steve Cousins that day (23 February) who had said that he was happy to come back in 2017 or 2018.

***Centre & Events Manager’s Report***

The Manager gave a Report updating Directors on the progress made so far re

alcohol licensing for the Centre, Food Hygiene requirements and PRS. She intends

to talk to Norman Iain re website arrangements for the Centre, but pointed out

that no progress can be made in terms of applications (including alcohol licences etc) until the question of a **Name for the Centre** has been settled. It was agreed to ask the general public and the schools for pupils’ suggestions for a suitable name, for which a prize of Restaurant Vouchers to the value of £100 for use in the new cafe, would be awarded. The competition would also be advertised on social media. The Comhairle have agreed that once a name has been finalised, that name will appear as a Bus Stop on the relevant bus timetables.

1. **AOCB**

***Broadband***

Donnie Morrison said that the next roll-out had been delayed because EU Regulations required that it should go out to tender again. The Scottish Government is expected to invest more money into broadband network improvements, which should give confidence that the improvements in West Harris will be forthcoming but not this year (2016) and pressure must be kept up.

***Crown Estate LMA***

It was agreed to **postpone** discussion of this issue again until the next meeting in March.

***VIP Opening of Centre***

Various names were suggested as possibilities for the official opening of the Centre, which would take place hopefully in the autumn. The subject was to be kept under review.

***Maternity Leave: Lisa MacDonald***

It was agreed that since Lisa only intended to take nine months of Maternity Leave, her post should be suspended until her return. HIE are willing to suspend the post during the absence and pick up funding afterwards.

***No.9 Scarista***

The tenant has proposed works to assist with loch drainage and was asking for landlord support. It was **agreed** that approval could be given subject to agreement having been obtained in advance by the tenant from all affected neighbours. Duncan to make a site visit to get a clearer understanding of the proposal.

1. **Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 22nd March 2016 at 7.30pm in Seilebost School.

**Diary Dates for future meetings:**

* April 19th
* May 17th
* June 14th
* August 16th
* September 13th
* October 11th
* November 15th
* December 13th