**MINUTES – DIRECTOR’S MEETING 22nd March 2016**

1. **Attendance.**

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

1. **Apologies:** Murdo Mackay, Fiona MacKenzie
2. **Declaration of Interest:** Neil Campbell declared an interest regardingthe “Calvert Site Extension”under AOCB.
3. **Approval of Minutes 23rd February 2016**

The minutes were approved.

1. **Review of Action Points**

Camping Spots – Leaflet holders have now been put up and those requiring repair been repaired. This item can now be moved to “Green”.

1. **Updates**

***Financial***

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

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

The Report was noted (see Appendix 2).

***This item has been removed for confidentiality but will be restored when confidentiality is no longer required.***

***Broadband for Houses and Centre*** - Fibre optic cable from Connected Communities mast will run to a box for the houses and Centre. This could then be bypassed when BT fibre becomes available.

***Luskentyre plots*** *-* The old electricity poles had been taken down that day (23 February). One couple who are currently looking at a Plot, may put in an application.

***Rural Housing Fund***: This new fund from the Scottish Government is open to communities to bid into. It provides grants for feasibility work for building of houses plus grant/loan for construction of houses for rent.

***Development Officer’s Report***

The Report was noted (see Appendix 3).

***Flensburg Students:*** The Presentation given on Thursday 17 March went very well

but was very detailed. Consequently a Summary of the Report will go out to each of the Directors. The main Report is available on disc.

***Seilebost School:*** At this point **Rhoda MacDonald declared an interest**. Duncan and Lisa had visited Callanish to examine the pods that were available there. They (Callanish) estimated an income of £10K per season. Electricity costs were approximately £400 per season, and Callanish made £260 on the shower. Callanish had painted their pods once in four years, and some of the pods had built-in bunk beds. LEADER application forms should be out this week for completion by 27th April in time for the Leader meeting on 31st May.

***Child Care*** *–* CnES will not support a Childcare facility if it would prove detrimental

to the Comhairle’s own Childcare facilities e.g. Sir E. Scott and Leverhulme Memorial School. Insufficient numbers available in Harris to support a privately run nursery. Last survey of parents was in 2007, so a more up to date survey might reveal a demand for afternoon Childcare.

***Community Resilience Application***: Lisa will finalise the specification of the generator and associated maintenance plan to allow for submission prior to going on maternity leave.

***Centre & Events* M*anager’s Report***

The Report was noted (see Appendix 4).

***Website*** - Need to get a skeleton website up and running as soon as possible. ***West Harris Trust Logo*** – to be adapted to include new Centre silhouette. ***Management Committee*** – A Management Committee will be needed, and should include a couple of Directors as well as some others. An advertisement is to be placed in *De Tha Dol* seeking volunteers for the Management Committee. Doug volunteered for the Committee.

***Leaflets*** – Neil advised that the WHT leaflets are likely to run out this year, and he suggested a joint leaflet for next year advertising both the Centre and the WHT.

***Restaurant Tenancy*** – There have been three applications who, after their initial

interview, have each been asked to submit detailed financial information for the Restaurant by the end of March. Once these have all been received, the interviewing panel will meet again and take an early decision as to the tenancy.

1. **AOCB**

***Crown Estate LMA*** *-*Discussion was **postponed** for the time being.

***CLS Conference*** *–* Friday 27th and Saturday 28th May. CLS are meeting in Stornoway. Duncan encouraged at least two Directors to attend, and volunteers will be sought at the April meeting.

***Pairc Trust Visit*** *–* A delegation from Park Trust will be visiting WHT in April or May and will wish to meet with staff and one or two Directors. **Duncan to arrange details**.

***Calvert Site Extension***  - The Calverts wish to extend their current site by approximately one tenth of an acre, and to square off the Plot. Directors agreed to a price of £2K for the additional ground subject to the agreement of the local Common Grazings Committee, which, if approved, would see the £2K split evenly between Common Grazings and WHT.

***No.9 Scarista*** *-* The drainage situation and the tenant’s proposed solution were further discussed following Duncan’s site visit. The Directors reaffirmed the decision taken at the February Meeting viz. expressing concern about the archaeological value of the dyke which the tenant planned to move, and also the possible implications with SEPA, it was **reaffirmed** that approval should **only** be given subject to agreement having been obtained in advance by the tenant from ALL affected parties.

***Flensburg Report*** – It was decided to hold a separate meeting with WHRL directors to discuss the opportunities identified by the students.

***Name of Centre*** – Out of 73 original suggestions, the list had been narrowed down to **six** serious possibilities. The remaining list (of six) was to be circulated to Directors for replies by the end of the week, i.e. by Friday 25th March.

***Business Debit Card*** – The proposal to apply for the issue of Business Debit Cards to Duncan MacPherson and Anna Helfrich was **approved**.

1. **Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 19th April 2016 at 7.30pm in Seilebost School.

**Diary Dates for future meetings:**

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