

West Harris Crofting Trust

Minutes 15th June 10, Seilebost School 7.30pm

BUSINESS

1) Apologies: Angus, Roddy, Mairi

Attending: Members: Neil, Murdo, Finlay, Rhoda, Gordon, Robert,

Others Simon Fraser (solicitor) and Russel Hird & Bob Chaffer for item 11 (Sporting's) and Chris & Tasmin from Community Land Network

2) The **minutes** of the meeting of the 17th May were approved

3) **Matters Arising/Review of Action Plan**

- Prices for the flyer should be received tomorrow
- Gordon confirmed that he would have a draft paper on joint working of the fishing by the July meeting (AP)
- Printed raffle tickets were distributed, Donald to maintain a log (AP)
- Action plan reviewed and changes made as appropriate

4) **Donald Morrison report**

Murdo introduced Donald our WIRO officer who gave a summary of the work he is carrying out, he is currently looking at charitable trusts for the Hydro Scheme and has sent out all rent notices, to date £672 has been received with £263 outstanding.

The Scottish Government has not yet passed over the croft files, Simon is pursuing on our behalf, Data Protection seems to be the issue.

Donald was asked to investigate as to whether the Trust requires registering (AP)

5) **Local Development Plan**

Murdo agreed to add our proposed housing locations. (AP) It was also agreed that Gordon in consultation with townships identify suitable areas for forestry. (AP)

6) **Financial Update**

Schedule of income and expenditure distributed, income to date £1,601 expenditure £892 surplus £709. The Trust funds stand at £3,198 including the £2,000 loan from TIG

7) **Lottery Update**

The formal offer has been accepted with a request to transfer £30,000 from the capital grant to revenue. As from 1st July our grants officer will be David Knight. A standard security is required, Simon pointed out that the Scottish Government already have a security and that any lender on the Hydro Scheme will require first ranking. The lottery is to be asked to confirm their requirements for security and pre-payment conditions (AP)

8) **Brochure/Website/Raffle**

271 entries to raffle received to date £1,355

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9) Hydro Scheme

Grid connection received, discussed with Simon Fraser, agreed to investigate the conditions but to accept within the 30 days subject to altering the terms deemed unacceptable. In particular the lease of the land to West Harris Renewables could not be finalised by the 31st July. (AP)

10) Housing Consultation

Murdo advised that we had a very positive morning on the 14th June with our architect and planner; six sites have been identified one in Scaristavore, two at Horgabost/Seilebost and three in Luskentyre. It was agreed to apply for outline planning for these six sites. The resumption process could then proceed if planning consent is approved. Agreed to meet with Simon separately to progress this item. (AP) A further area at Seilebost was identified as having potential but before proceeding would initially require consultation with the township. This area could possibly include a 'gateway centre' to the West Side.

11) Sporting's Discussion Paper

Russell Hird and Bob Chaffer outlined their skills and experience in managing shootings on an estate. In their opinion there were three resources which could be developed, grouse, woodcock and wildfowl, mainly geese. Subject to a satisfactory survey of the bird population they anticipated renting the shootings on an occasional basis at a rate of £100 per day for up to four guns. Russel was at pains to stress that any shootings on the estate would be managed in a sustainable way; his market was small groups using local accommodation. They suggested that woodcock and geese could be shot for a trial period. It was agreed that the Trust would discuss and offer an exclusive right to the shootings for a set period in return for a survey of the ground showing the potential (AP)

12) Assignation 16 Seilebost noted

Members noted and approved the application

AOCB

Simon Fraser

- Confirmed that an offer had been received from the Comhairle on resuming land and mineral rights for the A859 improvements, Simon hoped to increase this offer on behalf of the Trust before finalising, the final sum agreed will be reported back to the next meeting.
- he agreed to look at the school title (AP)
- Gordon advised that Neil Warring the Health & Safety officer with Bardon's had offered his help to the Trust
- The Trust re-iterated their opposition to the school closure and agreed to make formal representation. (AP)

Scottish Land Network

Chris and Tasmin outlined the role of the Community Land Network and how they help communities, it was agreed that West Harris would supply information

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for a Study to be included on their website. The study on Udney on their website was recommended to us.

12) Next Meeting Monday 19th July 2010

Neil Campbell
Secretary

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West Harris Crofting Trust Action Points

Date	Action	Responsible Person	Target Date	Current Position
16/2	Interim Land Policy	Murdo	31/10	Draft submitted to our solicitor, awaiting possible change to legislation. Amendment passed final Bill yet to be voted by Parliament
16/2	Other Trust Policies	Neil/Bobby	30/9	Ongoing
16/2	Friends of West Harris		30/6	Database from raffle form basis of 'friend' 2 nd newsletter to be sent July
15/3	Fuel Poverty Plan	Development Officer	30/9	Ongoing
15/3	CAR application information to be submitted to SEPA	Gordon	30/9	Ongoing
15/3	Legal Agreement to be prepared for lease of ground for Hydro Scheme	Murdo	31/7	Simon started resumption process
12 th April	SNH Management Plan	Murdo/Neil	30/9	Meet with local officers
17/5	Order posters/flyers	Robert	30/6	Quote by 16/6
17/5	Ownership of Foreshore-information to Simon	Murdo	30/9	Simon to respond to Crown
17/5	Taransay Fiddle School-management by Trust	Decision deferred	30/9	Ongoing
15/6	Gordon to provide draft paper on joint working with Borve estate on Brown trout fishing's	Gordon and township directors	19 th July	Agreed
15/6	Investigate Data Protection Act	Donald	19 th July	
15/6	Sign grid offer subject to further investigation	Murdo/Neil	8 th July	Done
15/6	Lottery terms for security to be requested and pre payment conditions	Neil	30/6	Second bank account to be opened

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	clarified			
15/6	Meet with Simon to start resumption for six sites and agree terms of sale	Murdo	30/6	Done
15/6	Trust to offer shootings to Russel Hird on agreed terms, we would also provide a list of suitable accommodation	Neil/Gordon	30/6	Done terms agreed
15/6	Suitable areas for forestry be added to the Local Plan	Gordon	31/7	Done area to be approved by township
15/6	Trust to make formal representation on Seilebost school closure	Neil	30/6	Done
15/6	Maintain log of who holds raffle tickets	Donald	15/6	Ongoing
15/6	Look at School title	Simon	30/6	

Colour Code

Amber On target

Green Completed

Red Not on Target