

MINUTES – DIRECTOR’S MEETING 19th June 2012

1. Attendance.

Apologies Fiona Maclennan, Norman Iain Mackay

Attending: Murdo Mackay (Chair) Robert Macleod, Richard Maclennan, Neil Campbell (Secretary), Finlay Maclennan, Rhoda Macdonald, Roddy MacDonald, Noni Maclennan, Duncan Macpherson Development Officer

The Chair welcomed Noni Maclennan to his first directors meeting; he also thanked Mairi Macleod who had stood down at the AGM for her contribution over the last two years. Murdo was re-elected as Chair.

2. Approval of Minutes 15th May 2012.

Minutes unanimously approved

3. Matters arising.

a. Review of action plan.

-good progress on actions noted

4. Updates.

a) Financial- surplus of £16,384 for five months.

b) School Closure. It was agreed to proceed with the 5kw turbine at Shelibost school with the balance of funds to be borrowed from EST or CARES Loan

5. Development.

Gleann Dubhlinn hydro scheme

SSE is speaking with National Grid and OFGEM about enabling WHT to get derogation for a grid connection.

S Harris wind turbine

The various groups have agreed to progress three small turbines (50kw) individually and work together on a large project

Housing/office development

A draft of the feasibility study had been distributed to board members. An application has been submitted to HIE for 50% funding of up to £50,000 in feasibility and design costs and will hopefully be approved this week. HIE will not fund any housing design but the Big Lottery Fund will fund this as part of a wider scheme so David Knight has indicated that BLF will fund the balance of the costs. It was agreed to proceed to planning stage

Graduate Placement

Interviews were held on 15th June and Cait Wooll was appointed as Business Development Officer under the graduate placement programme. She will start work on Monday 2nd July for 1 year.

Pontoons/Campsite

The Coastal Communities Fund application was unsuccessful as more than £40m of applications were submitted for a pot worth £1.85m. Funding is available from other sources and this will be taken forward by the graduate placement.

Woodland

Donald Macleod of the Forestry Commission has concluded that the area adjacent to Allt Loch a' Bhealaich will not be suitable for a woodland scheme. He expects to visit again in the last week of June to look at other potential sites. This could include an area adjacent to the existing woodland at Laxdale cottage.

New WHT leaflet

The John Muir Trust has awarded £1000 towards the cost of producing a new leaflet for the Trust. Richard Chyzy has been contracted to design this. Good quality landscape and wildlife photos are required to illustrate this, so submissions to the office will be welcome.

Crofting

The latest rental demands were issued in May, which included reminders to those who had 2011 rents outstanding. 42 of 53 rents had been paid as of 15th June. 2 rents are outstanding from May 2011 and 3 from November 2011.

Plot sales

The signs on the unsold plots have generated significant interest. A request to purchase a plot by the tenant of 4 Luskentyre has been received. A response has been sent by Anderson Macarthur offering to sell the plot in line with Trust policy.

It was agreed to sell the area of ground at 6 Seilebost for £7,500 on condition that fences are put back to croft boundaries.

6. Community Engagement

- Blog article written on partnership working with JMT
- Cait/Duncan to write narrative for brochure & de Tha Dol

7. Housing

8. Estate Management

- Rent review, agreed to increase rents from May 2013 by 20%
- Updated tenant plot sale policy was approved, copy to be sent to Anderson Macarthur (AP)
- Admin support, £5,000 re-allocated from our lottery grant, it was agreed to place an advert in the De Tha Dol (AP)

9. AOCB

- Companies House forms to be completed for new directors (AP)
- End of year report to lottery noted
- SES Activities, agreed to donate £100 (AP)
- Community Empowerment, agreed to make submission (AP)
- Goose Management agreed to support project

Diary dates for future meetings:

Tuesday 14th August 2012

Tuesday 18th September 2012

Tuesday 23rd October 2012-

Tuesday 20th November 2012

Tuesday 18th December 2012