

MINUTES – DIRECTOR’S MEETING 26th February 2013

1. Attendance.

Apologies: Donald MacLennan

Present: Finlay MacLennan, Murdo Mackay (Chair), Neil Campbell (Secretary), Rhoda Macdonald, Richard MacLennan, Norman Mackay, Fiona Mackenzie, Roddy Macdonald, Duncan MacPherson (Commercial Development Manager), Cait Wooll (Business Development Officer) and Linda Green (Administrator)

2. Approval of Minutes 22nd January 2013

Minutes unanimously approved.

3. Review of Action Points

- Approach HIE for community mapping support – Murdo has been in contact with Hugh Donaldson but as yet has had no response.
- Meet with Malcolm Maciver re Luskentyre water – Duncan to contact Scott.

4. Updates

Financial

£43,371.12 in the bank at end January 2013.

Surplus for the month (-£190)

£6,679.23 received from HIE.

£23,675 Energy Saving Trust Loan

£11,397.00 Big Lottery Connection Fee Loan

Commercial Development Managers Report

The managers’ report was noted, see appendix 1.

Scarista Wind Turbine

Planning approval has been granted by the planning committee. A positive initial response has been received from Social Investment Scotland.

Rubha Romagaidh – Community Building

Questions so far from the planners have centred on the rationale for building out with an existing settlement. The reason for this being that the Trust was unable to identify a suitable location within a settlement.

Technical Services have indicated that bollard lighting will not be sufficient. Alan Dickson is planning to visit on the 5th of March in order to discuss this.

Rubha Romagaidh – Housing

Hebridean Housing Partnership have indicated that they plan to fund one rural site. Their position on how many units to build has altered since more money has been made available. Initially they suggested that they would be open to funding 4 shared equity homes, this has changed to 2 rental units. Directors indicated that they would rather the initial 4 shared equity houses.

Business Development Officers Report

The report was noted, see appendix 2.

Website

¾ of the content has been completed. Norman Mackay has been asked to improve the appearance once all content has been added.

Horgabost Pontoon and Shed

Further discussions are to be held with the grazing committees as the previous meeting did not reach conclusive results. It was suggested to write a letter to the committees including a map and ask them to suggest possible locations for the shed.

The deadline for the LEADER application is Friday 28th February 2013. A site must be identified by 18th March if the application is to be considered.

If a location for the shed is not found it may be difficult to fund the pontoon on its own.

Horticulture

Leverburgh and Seilebost Schools have expressed an interest in partaking in horticulture for a school project.

No deadline from the Climate Challenge Fund.

Beach Festival

Planning of the festival is mainly complete. Cait attended a ServeWise Personal License course earlier this month and is awaiting the results of the exam.

5. Updated Business Plan for Approval

The business plan was noted, see appendix 3.

Duncan has updated the Trusts Business Plan so that it can be used in current projects. A number of existing projects have been updated as has the narrative.

The presentation of the business plan is of utmost importance when seeking funding. A number of other business' business plans were mentioned as having been particularly successful.

The updated business plan was approved by directors.

6. Seilebost School – Trust Bid

Rhoda Macdonald declared an interest as a teacher of Seilebost School and therefore did not take part in this discussion.

The parents of Seilebost school children have decided to give up the fight to keep the school open and have asked for the school to close in June. No children have been enrolled at the school for the coming year due to its uncertain future.

The current policy for redundant schools is that they are first offered to other CNES departments, then HHP and then community groups before being put on the open market.

It was decided that the Trust would make every effort to secure the school building for the community.

7. AOCB

Crofters Commission Legal Advice

The Crofting Commissions statement was noted, see appendix 4

Only one croft in West Harris is owner occupied. There was uncertainty as to whether the tenant of 6 Seilebost had purchased a portion of their croft. Duncan to check with Anderson and Macarthur.

Diary Dates for future meetings:

- Mar 19th

- Apr 16th
- May 21st
- Jun 18th
- July 16th ?