

MINUTES – DIRECTOR’S MEETING 29TH OCTOBER 2013

1. Attendance.

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

Apologies: Neil Macdonald

2. Approval of Minutes 24th September 2013

The minutes were approved with amendment to point 5. Approval of loan to the Renewables subsidiary including the terms and conditions of the loan. The interest rate will be set at base rate, currently 0.5%.

3. Review of Action Points

- Geese and Rabbit Control

Meeting to be held in Stornoway on 4th November 2013.

- 6D Seilebost

Disposition signed with agreement of 2m reserved for stock access.

- WHT policy on absenteeism

Crofting commission policy now in place.

4. Updates

Financial

The report was noted, see appendix 1.

Commercial Development Managers Report

The Report was noted, see appendix 2. The following updates were given at the meeting:

Wave Energy

David Campbell of Albatern visited earlier in the week and took part in a meeting at which the West Harris Trust, HIE and Community Energy Scotland were in attendance. Since last visiting, his device has been developed further and one is about to be installed in Muck. He continues to be interested in installing a device off the West Coast of Harris, possibly linked to the proposed development at Rubha Romagaidh.

HIE have approached WHT to ask if they would be interested in being a part of a consortium which would bid for an area of sea offered by the Crown Estate to the rear of Taransay and also bid for a piece of sea on the Trust’s side of Taransay, which would be reserved for the use of small wave energy providers, like Albatern. The consortium would consist of the West Harris Trust who would act as a liaison between any potential developer and the community, European Marine Energy Centre Ltd (EMEC), CnES and HIE. Bids are due by the 1st of November.

The Directors decided that they would accept the invitation to be a part of the consortium.

John Muir Trust – Work Party

The directors decided to accept JMT's offer to have a work party come over in April rather than June next year in order to focus on tree planting.

Beach Festival 2014

Following a discussion as to whether the Beach Festival would be achievable with so many other projects on going, the directors decided not to go ahead with the Beach Festival in 2014.

Marine Access Project

Site preparation for the new shed is underway. LEADER have granted a one month extension on the construction of the shed. The shed will be ordered tomorrow (30/10/13) and should be delivered in the next 6 weeks.

5. AOCB

Fundraising Committee

The West Harris Trust Fundraising Committee have planned to meet on the 7th of November to discuss possible fundraising options. One possibility would be to hold an open day in the school which could also act as the first community consultation as to what the building could be used for.

Graduate Placements

The Big Lottery Fund and the Development Trust Association Scotland (DTAS) have both said that there may be opportunities for graduate placements with their grantholders/members in the near future. The directors decided that they would be interested if the opportunity came about.

Crown Estate

Rob Adams from the Crown Estate paid Cait and Duncan a visit today to discuss the options available for moorings at the Horgabost Pontoon. He informed them that he thought that as the Trust already had a constitution there was no need to draw up a new one for the moorings association. A list of rules would suffice and the Trust could act as a moorings association. He suggested that the Trust should put a few moorings of their own in and charge a daily rent on them.

West Side School Catchment Area

RHODA MACDONALD DECLARED AN INTEREST AS HEAD TEACHER OF LEVERHULME MEMORIAL SCHOOL AND THEREFORE DID NOT TAKE PART IN THIS DISCUSSION.

There is an ongoing consultation taking place into the catchment area for Leverhulme Memorial School and Sir Edward Scott School. CnES have proposed that all children living in the townships of Scarista, Borge and Horgabost should attend Leverburgh and all children to the north of Horgabost should attend Tarbert.

The consultation will close on the 11th of December. It was decided to revisit this discussion at the next directors meeting.

Remembrance Day Representation

The Trust has been asked if they would like to take place in this year's Remembrance Day Service in Tarbert. The directors decided to investigate if there was still time to buy a wreath for the service.

Thank you to Seilebost School Parent Council

The directors thanked the Seilebost School Parent Council for their kind donation of £482.

Crofting Commission – Common Grazings Regulations

The Crofting Commission have issued a report on the consultation undertaken into common grazings regulations. All grazings clerks should have received a copy.

Diary Dates for future meetings: (2014 for approval)

- Nov 19th
- Dec 17th
- Jan 21st
- Feb 18th
- March 18th
- April 15th
- May 13th
- June 17th
- Aug 19th
- Sept 16th
- Oct 21st
- Nov 18th
- Dec 16th