

MINUTES – DIRECTOR’S MEETING 17th DECEMBER 2013

1. Attendance.

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

Apologies: Fiona Mackenzie and Richard Maclennan

2. Approval of Minutes 19th November 2013

The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Review of Action Points

- Luskenytre Electricity Supply

See Appendix 2

- Plot Sales

The deed of restriction and planning permission for the plot at Scarista is expected within the next week or so. It is expected that the sale of the plot will take place early in the new year.

- Seilebost/Horgabost Common Grazings Loan

The £1000 loan to Seilebost/Horgabost Common Grazings was re-paid in full earlier this month.

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:

Glen Dubhlinn Hydro Scheme

The North Harris Trust is in contact with a private investment firm who are considering investing in the hydro scheme which is planned in North Harris. Duncan has emailed them to try to arrange a meeting when they next visit.

Scarista Wind Turbine

West Harris Renewables Ltd met prior to this meeting to formally agree to the various loan offer documents with Social Investment Scotland (SIS) for the loan on the Scarista turbine.

WHRL is still waiting to receive the deed of restriction and the lease registration number from the land court. Once these have been received the turbine can be ordered.

Rubha Romagaidh - Housing

Rural Design have recently been in touch with Duncan as they have come up with ways to significantly reduce the cost of building the proposed houses at Rubha Romagaidh. This will hopefully make the project more financially attractive to HHP.

Plot Sales

John Copp of SSE has asked a surveyor to come over to the Island to cost moving the poles to behind the plots rather than burying the cable. Whilst he is on island he will also cost what work is required at the Rubha Romagaidh development. An application could be made to the Scottish Hydro Electric Trust which provides grant support for building plots which are expensive to connect.

Seilebost School Consultation

The results of the Seilebost School Consultation were shown, see appendix 3.

Business Development Officers Report

The Report was noted, see appendix 4.

5. AOCB

Crown Estate Management Agreement

A Model of a Local Management Agreement was shown, see appendix 5.

Directors were asked if they had any ideas for projects which could happen in West Harris which would require the use of the sea bed. A number of ideas were suggested, including underwater cameras which could be linked to the proposed development at Rubha Romagaidh. It was suggested that Duncan look into Local Area Management Agreements which are already in place in Portree and Lochmaddy.

It was agreed that an application to the Crown Estate would be submitted.

Broadband Coverage

WHT and NHT have asked to meet with representatives of BT to discuss the provision of superfast broadband for the area and issues surrounding wayleaves for laying new cabling.

Harris Development Ltd

HDL approached WHT to ask if they would be interested in taking over responsibility for the MacGillivray Centre in Northton if HDL were to dissolve in the near future. The directors decided that this would be inappropriate as Northton is out with the boundaries of West Harris. It was decided to decline the offer.

2 Seilebost

Finlay MacIennan declared an interest as a member of the Seilebost/Horgabost Common grazings committee and therefore did not take part in this discussion.

A letter has been received from the Crofting Commission suggesting that the tenancy of 2 Seilebost may be terminated due to the tenant repeatedly failing to respond to letters sent by the

Crofting Commission and also failing to take up residency on the croft despite suggesting that this would have taken place by now. It was decided that the Trust would respond to the Crofting Commission stating that the aim of the Trust is to encourage young people to return/stay on the island and that they would like to see all crofts being worked and preferably resided upon. It was also suggested that the Crofting Commission should be reminded that anyone assigned the croft should be asked for a credible plan of what they intend to do with the croft and that they should be kept in contact with to ensure that this takes place.

6D Seilebost

The Horgabost/Seilebost grazings committee has asked for a plan of what was sold at 6D Seilebost. Duncan to forward.

New Director

Dougie Ferguson has agreed to become a director of the West Harris Trust.

Cait Wooll

The directors thanked Cait for the work which she carried out whilst working for the Trust. Her contract ends at the end of December.

Diary Dates for future meetings:

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