

## **MINUTES – DIRECTOR’S MEETING 24<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

### **1. Attendance.**

Present: Finlay Maclellan, Neil Campbell (Secretary), Rhoda Macdonald, Roddy Macdonald (Chair), Neil Macdonald, Richard Maclellan, Duncan MacPherson (Commercial Development Manager), Cait Wool (Business Development Officer) and Linda Green (Administrator)

Apologies: Norman Mackay, Murdo Mackay

### **2. Approval of Minutes 20<sup>th</sup> August 2013**

The minutes were unanimously approved.

### **3. Review of Action Points**

No Updates

### **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:

### ***Gleann Dubhlinn Hydro Scheme***

Planning permission for the scheme has been re-applied for at a cost of £1960. The Big Lottery have agreed to fund 100% of the planning application.

### ***Crofting***

Croft Mapping – Crofts must be advertised for two weeks running in a local paper. This rules out the De tha Dol as it is only published once a fortnight. It was discussed that the Trust should contact the De tha Dol to ask if they might consider having a special edition to enable crofters to advertise with them.

### ***Seilebost School***

The phone line and broadband were installed on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. The new office phone number is 01859 550 457.

It was suggested that an open morning/afternoon be held to introduce the office to the public and also have an initial discussion of possible uses for the building.

## **Business Development Officers Report**

The report was noted, see appendix 3

### ***Horgabost Marine Project***

Health and safety rules and regulations were discussed and will be researched prior to the beginning of the 2014 season.

### ***Beach Festival 2014***

A number of options were discussed for the 2014 beach festival. It was agreed that a bouncy castle from Pursuit Hebrides could be hired for the Saturday event. It was also suggested that speed boat trips could run from the pontoon at Horgabost. Planning committee to be formed at the next directors meeting.

## **5. AOCB**

### ***Approval of loan to the Renewables subsidiary including the terms and conditions of the loan***

The directors agreed that The West Harris Trust is willing to lend up to £50,000 to the subsidiary West Harris Renewables Limited at the interest rate of 0.5%.

### ***Training for Directors***

During a consultation with Community Land Scotland it was suggested that directors of community land owning groups should undertake training to enable them to deliver more benefit to the group. Suggested areas of improvement were, strategy, future plans and understanding accounts. It was also suggested that new directors should undertake orientation training.

### ***Register of Interests - update***

To be updated.

### ***Equal Opportunities Policy***

The document was noted, see appendix 4

The policy needs to be updated to note change of name from The West Harris Crofting Trust to The West Harris Trust. Also, recent Equalities legislation needs to be adhered to.

In future the policy should be reviewed once a year and discussed at the AGM.

### **Geese and Rabbit Control**

Both geese and rabbits are a problem in the Trust area and it was suggested that funding me be sought to help in the management of both species. Duncan is to contact Galson estate as they have successfully brought the rabbit numbers under control in their area. The John Muir Trust are to be approached as a possible source of funding.

### **Diary Dates for future meetings:**

- Oct 29<sup>th</sup>
- Nov 19th
- Dec 17th