

MINUTES – DIRECTOR’S MEETING 21st JANUARY 2014

1. Attendance.

Present: Neil Campbell (Secretary), Neil Macdonald, Murdo Mackay (Chair), Roddy Macdonald, Norman Iain Mackay, Dougie Ferguson, Rhoda Macdonald, Finlay Maclellan, Richard Maclellan, Duncan MacPherson (Commercial Development Manager) and Linda Green (Administrator).

Apologies: Fiona Mackenzie.

The chair welcomed Dougie Ferguson to his first board meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes 17th December 2013

The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Review of Action Points

- Prepare policy on absenteeism

The Crofting Commission have recently issued an ‘Occupancy Initiative’. The Trust will use this to help produce its own policy on absenteeism.

- Design of Luskentyre water and electricity supply

John Copp has passed details to a surveyor and has requested that they come to the island to price the work to be done both at Luskentyre and the proposed development at Rubha Romagaidh.

- SGRPID Estate Records

Records have been received for Scaristavore. Linda was asked to request records for Horgabost, Seilebost and Borve.

- Tackle BT on Broadband Provision

Murdo and Duncan along with the North Harris Trust have been in contact with BT. They have provided a contact to which all questions can be forwarded. It was suggested once again that there seems to be a lack of knowledge within the community as to how little benefit they will gain from the broadband project.

4. Updates

Financial

The report was noted, see appendix 1.

Neil Campbell made the suggestion that the West Harris Trust should pay West Harris Renewable Ltd for the electricity provided by the turbine at Seilebost School. It was decided to ask the accountant for his opinion.

Commercial Development Managers Report

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

This item has been removed for confidentiality but will be restored when confidentiality is no longer required.

Scarista Wind Turbine

SSE has not yet confirmed a date for connecting the turbine to the grid. It is thought that this will take place by the end of February with the deadline for the current FIT rate being the 31st of March.

Crown Estate

Duncan attended a meeting last week about the proposed consortium which is bidding for the lease of the marine renewables demonstration zone proposed by the Crown Estate behind Taransay. The consortium agreed to ask for an extension to the proposed area so as to enable smaller devices to be trialled.

Rubha Romagaidh – Housing

The directors decided that depending on the value of the plots they would be happy to go ahead and sell land for 6 units to HHP with a clause in the sale terms that if they are not built upon by HHP the Trust can buy them back at the sale price.

A concern was raised that it was in the Trust's aims to provide housing for local people and would this be achieved if the houses were built by HHP. It was pointed out that while allocations would be made in accordance with HHP policy, it does take account of local residency in addition to other factors when allocating houses.

Plot Sales

Anderson Macarthur are in receipt of funds from the sale of the plot at 12 Scaristavore. Payment is to be sent to the Trust and Scarista grazings committee later this week.

CERB Consultation

Directors approved the draft response to the consultation, see appendix 3.

5. AOCB

Include Us

Duncan has been in contact with Include Us who have funding available for projects with the aim of making young people (under 25s) more entrepreneurial. Directors were asked to consider whether there was anything the Trust could do in this area.

Facebook/Twitter

Photos of current projects to be taken and posted online to keep the community up to date with what is going on. It was also decided that a newsletter should be sent out to residents to coincide with the Scarista turbine being erected.

Diary Dates for future meetings:

- Feb 18th
- March 18th
- April 15th

- May 13th
- June 17th
- Aug 19th
- Sept 16th
- Oct 21st
- Nov 18th
- Dec 16th