

MINUTES – DIRECTOR’S MEETING 19th AUGUST 2014

1. **Attendance.**

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

Apologies: Fiona Mackenzie and Finlay Maclennan.

2. **Approval of Minutes 17th June 2014.**

The minutes were unanimously approved, proposed by Neil Campbell and seconded by Rhoda Macdonald.

On behalf of pupils and teachers at Leverhulme Memorial School, Rhoda Macdonald thanked Roddy Maclennan for kindly leading a visit to the Scarista wind turbine.

3. **Review of Action Points**

- **Mooring Sites**

Mooring sites have been identified and materials purchased. It was decided that as the season is almost over to not put the moorings out until next year.

- **Design of Luskentyre water and electricity supply**

The design of the electricity design is complete and a price has been received. The water supply design is also complete and awaiting Duncan Mackay’s price. As Chris Macvicar has now secured planning permission a formal application to Scottish Water has been able to be submitted. A grant application to the Scottish Hydro Electric Community Trust has also been made.

- **Tackle BT on Broadband Provision**

Nodes will be placed at least every 4km along the main fibre optic from where local connections can be made. Surveyors will carry out work at the end of the year to decide which areas will actually receive superfast broadband as part of the current programme.

- **Borve Lodge Request for Lease**

After discussion of Borve Lodge Estate’s latest proposal the directors decided not to offer Borve Lodge Estate any further shooting rights, proposed by Roddy Macdonald and seconded by Murdo Mackay.

4. **Updates**

Financial

Quarterly reports for both West Harris Trust and West Harris Renewables were shown, see appendix 2 and 3.

Big Lottery – end of grant form to be finalised and sent to David Knight.

Scarista Turbine - £35,000 of the Trust’s own capital was used in the construction of the Turbine with £20,000 still owing to Harbon, this will be repaid after a year. Also, still awaiting the final bill from Isle of Harris Plant Ltd for landscaping work.

The July report was noted, see appendix 4.

Commercial Development Managers Report

The Report was noted, see appendix 5. 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.

Community Enterprise Centre

Alan Dickson had sent the first proposed design of a playpark for the CEC that is cheaper than the £23,000 proposed for the more traditional option. His design was shown, see appendix 6. The directors decided the design was not particularly in keeping with the design of the building. Plan to be forwarded to Rhoda who will ask school children at Leverhulme Memorial School for their opinions.

Horgabost Marine Access Project

The partition walls in the shed are progressing well. Jeeves has come up with the idea of using his partition wall as a climbing wall. Calum Macinnes, the joiner working on the partitions has said that the wall is secured at both the top and bottom and is therefore strong enough to take the weight. The directors said that under the terms of his lease, Jeeves can do as he wishes in the shed as long as he has the relevant insurance and permissions in place.

Hebridean Long Distance Route

Murdo Mackay declared an interest as a council employee with involvement in this project and therefore did not take place in this discussion.

Maps were shown, see appendix 7.

The directors suggested that it would be beneficial to hold a meeting with Chris Harris, the Trust and grazing townships to go over the maps.

5. AOCB

Golf Club Sponsorship

Roddy Macdonald declared an interest as a member of the golf club.

The Golf Club have approached the Trust to ask if they would like to sponsor a hole on the Scarista golf course. The directors were very supportive of this proposal but due to the current cash flow decided to request the golf club that payment be delayed until spring 2015.

Community Empowerment Bill

Duncan had not yet had a chance to read the Community Empowerment Bill but once read will send main points to directors. Responses due by early September.

Postal Address for New Shed

Eto has suggested that the shed has a name as it will make it easier to identify when delivering mail. A number of options were discussed, mainly that “The Cliff” be incorporated as that is what the area is known as locally. It was decided that a number of options would be sent out to directors for their opinions.

Community Land Scotland

David Cameron has asked if West Harris Trust will assist in producing a powerpoint presentation on community purchase of government owned land. The directors agreed that Duncan could go ahead with this.

Access to Pontoon

Richard brought it to the attention of the meeting that users of the pontoon at Horgabost have been driving over the dunes in order to gain access to the pontoon. The parking of vehicles has encouraged other beach users to do the same. Discussions would be held with users to regulate access in 2015.

Diary Dates for future meetings:

- Sept 16th
- Oct 21st
- Nov 18th
- Dec 16th