

MINUTES – DIRECTOR’S MEETING 14th APRIL 2015

1. **Attendance.**

Present: Finlay MacIennan, Rhoda MacDonald, Dougie Ferguson, Neil MacDonald, Murdo Mackay (Chairman), Neil Campbell (Secretary), Roddy Macdonald, Norman Iain Mackay, Duncan MacPherson (Commercial Development Manager), Lisa MacDonald (Development Officer) and Linda Armstrong (Administrator).
Apologies: Richard MacIennan and Fiona Mackenzie.

2. **Approval of Minutes 17th March 2015**

The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. **Review of Action Points**

- **Croft House Grant Scheme Consultation**

Trust’s response submitted.

4. **Updates**

Financial

Reports for the West Harris Trust and West Harris Renewables were shown. See appendix 1 and 2.

West Harris Renewables Limited – Social Investment Scotland has agreed that they will only take payments for the interest on the loan for the Scarista Turbine until accreditation has been received from OFGEM.

Duncan received an email from OFGEM today stating that the Turbine should receive accreditation shortly. SSE have however said that once accreditation has been received, it could take up to 3 months before FIT payments would be made to the Trust. **The directors agreed that they would be willing to lend up to £5,000 to West Harris Renewables in the event that cash flow issues arise.**

Commercial Development Manager’s Report

The Report was noted, see appendix 3. The following updates were given at the meeting:

Hydro

The following has been deleted and will not be made public until the consultation period is over.

Horgabost Wind Turbine

Finlay MacIennan expressed an interest as a crofter in Seilebost and therefore did not take part in this discussion.

The following has been deleted and will not be made public until the consultation period is over.

Luskentyre House Sites

The following has been deleted and will not be made public until the consultation period is over.

Road Improvements

Breedon's have asked whether the Trust would like them to leave a parking area created during the road improvements between Stockinish road end and Luskentyre road end. They have said that they will put a covering of aggregate on. **The directors agreed that they were happy for the area to be left.**

Development Officer Report

The report was noted, see appendix 4. The following updates were given at the meeting:

Campervans

Dougie Ferguson expressed an interest as the husband of Ann Ferguson and left the meeting.

Ann Ferguson has been appointed as the out of hours caretaker for the campervan spots and will be paid a retainer of £100/month, to be reviewed after 3 months. Ann was the only applicant to the post which was advertised in the De Tha Dol and also on the Trust's Facebook page. **The directors agreed that they were happy to recruit Ann.**

Social Enterprise Academy

Directors were asked to volunteer to attend a social enterprise academy training event which will take place in Harris on the 25th of June. The directors decided that a decision would be made when the venue of the event is known.

5. AOCB

Local Development Plan

Duncan and Lisa attended a meeting in March which discussed the local outcome agreement for Harris that has been in place for the past five years and also the proposal that a new plan be created for the coming five years. Directors were asked to contact Duncan with any projects that they would like to see included in the plan, not only for West Harris but Harris wide. The Comhairle are also in the process of updating their own development plan and the Trust has been asked to identify any future sites for development projects which they would like to see included. Inclusion in the plan is beneficial when planning and funding is being sought.

Crown Estate – Local Management Agreement

Lisa has received a contract from the Crown Estate which will now be sent to our solicitor to check over.

Duncan to contact Pete Middleton at CnES to discuss the Comhairle's position on devolution of the seabed to local communities.

Countryside Trust

CnES in partnership with SNH are looking to form a Trust that will manage the Hebridean Way and any future access projects. **The directors agreed that they were supportive of the formation of a Countryside Trust.**

Community Land Scotland

Community Land Scotland is looking for new directors to their board. Duncan agreed to consider standing.

AGM Date

The directors decided that they would hold off deciding a date for the AGM until it is known that the accounts will be ready. Duncan to circulate possible dates between mid-May and June.

Letters of thanks to CEC Funders

The directors agreed that they would write letters of thanks to funders of the community enterprise centre.

Meeting Procedure

It was agreed that future agendas should include 'declaration of interests' which would be listed at the beginning of each meeting.

Press Release – Community Enterprise Centre

It was decided that a formal press release would not be released until after the contractor begins on site. A formal 'turf cutting' ceremony will take place at which a local 'celebrity' may be asked to take part.

Ferry Action Group

Murdo suggested that the Trust may wish to make a representation on behalf of the residents of West Harris. The directors agreed that they would be supportive of this.

Diary Dates for future meetings:

- May 19th
- June 16th
- August 18th
- September 15th
- October 13th
- November 17th
- December 15th