

## MINUTES – DIRECTOR’S MEETING 24<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2017

1. **Attendance:**

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

2. **Apologies:** George Macleod

3. **Declaration of Interest:**

Roddy Macdonald expressed an interest as a member of the Isle of Harris Golf Club and therefore did not take part in the discussion on how to bill other organisations for Lisa’s time.

4. **Approval of Minutes 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

The minutes were approved.

5. **Financial**

Monthly WHT report for December was presented (see Appendix 1) and was duly noted.

Quarterly WHRL report was presented (see Appendix 2) and was duly noted.

### **Commercial Development Manager’s Report**

The report was duly noted (see Appendix 3).

- *This item has been removed for confidentiality but will be restored when confidentiality is no longer required*
- **Development Officer**

Lisa’s post is currently 75% supported by HIE, dropping to 50% for the final year of her contract from summer 2017. Her post is not only to cover WHT projects but also those of other groups in the area. Directors decided that the decision on whether to charge other groups for a contribution of Lisa’s costs will be made on a case by case basis.

### **Development Officer’s Report**

Lisa gave a verbal update on her progress since returning from maternity leave earlier this month.

- **SSE Community Resilience Fund**

VHF radios and a generator will be ordered in the coming weeks. The VHF’s will be kept at the centre to be used by the Trust for events etc and distributed in the

event that a severe weather event is forecast. The Community Emergency plan will need to be updated to show Talla na Mara as the emergency hub.

- **LEADER Application**

Work is progressing on the LEADER application for the development of Seilebost School.

- **Signage**

Lisa to work with George Macleod on increasing the amount of signage for tourists.

### **Centre and Events Manager's Report**

The report was duly noted (see Appendix 4).

- **Marketing**

Events newspaper – it was decided to not go ahead with the advert in the Events newspaper.

- **Weddings**

Anna has received an enquiry for a small wedding ceremony to take place in Talla na Mara as a wet weather alternative. The pricing structure in place does not offer a reasonable price for this scenario. Anna to send suggestions to directors.

- **Training (Talla na Mara)**

A training event will take place prior to the centre opening where there will be the opportunity to meet the tenants of the business units, learn to use fire safety equipment and have a walk round of the centre in order to familiarise ourselves with the layout.

- **Signage**

Anna to ask Bord nan Gaidhlig for their assistance in translating signage wording.

- **Policies for Approval**

Accessibility Statement

Gaelic Policy

Both policies were noted (see Appendix 5 and 6) and approved.

## 6. **AOCB**

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

**The UK Government's consultation on whether remote island wind projects should be subsidised:** Duncan to draft a response and circulate to directors.

**West Harris Residents List:** An up to date list of residents in West Harris was compiled.

**The meeting was cut short to enable the directors to hold a private meeting to discuss Duncan MacPherson's resignation. All other items listed under AOCB will be discussed at the next meeting of the Trust.**

Murdo Mackay, on behalf of the directors, took this opportunity to thank Duncan MacPherson for his work at the Trust, describing his achievements as nothing short of miraculous.

7. **Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017 at 7.30pm in **Talla na Mara!**

**Diary Dates for future meetings:**

- March 14<sup>th</sup>
- April 18<sup>th</sup>
- May 16<sup>th</sup>
- June 20<sup>th</sup>
- August 15<sup>th</sup>
- September 19<sup>th</sup>
- October 10<sup>th</sup>
- November 14<sup>th</sup>
- December 12<sup>th</sup>