

MINUTES – DIRECTOR’S MEETING 25th September 2018

1. Attendance

Present: Murdo Mackay (Chairman), Neil Campbell (Secretary), Dougie Ferguson, Norman Iain Mackay, Linda Armstrong (Commercial Manager), Neil MacDonald, Finlay MacLennan, Diana Calvert, Richard MacLennan (arrived 6:45pm), George Macleod and Angus MacLennan (Facilities Manager)

Apologies: Deborah Coghill (Administrator), Rhoda MacDonald, Chris Loye, Roddy MacDonald (Vice Chairman)

2. Declaration of Interest:

There were no declaration of interests.

3. **Minutes 17th June 2018** - Approved by Neil MacDonald and Neil Campbell
Minutes 21st August 2018 – Approved

4. Action Points

Code of Conduct: signed by appropriate members

John Muir Trust – Visited in September and built a stone bench area at Talla na Mara.

Broadband – Grant previously looked into is now over. Openreach able to provide 50% of the funding for the connection. Linda is awaiting pricing for Pairc Niseabost and Horgabost connection. Each business and resident is eligible for a Gigabit voucher if they commit to a 12 month contract with a 100mb connection.

Housing Needs Analysis – Survey sent – results expected end November

ScotGrad – Applications closed – inviting to interview – hope to be in place end October/early November

Cockle fishing – meeting postponed – will rearrange

5. Updates

Financial – report noted. Cash flow projections were presented.

Secretary noted good preparation of financial updates

Commercial Manager’s Report (appendix 2):

Machair Kitchen opening hours: Closed November, reduced hours in December and closed over Christmas period

West Harris Trust office: Request for reduced hours over Winter to 9am – 3pm: approved

MacIver plot: mortgage on track, expected repayment by 30th September as hoped

Development Officer: HIE will be funding a new Development Officer post for the whole of Harris, to be based with Harris Development Ltd.

Calendar: All calendars for 2019 now sold. Suggestion for another calendar competition for 2020 – approved

Bench offer: There has been an offer from someone who got married at Scarista to donate towards a new bench- approx. cost £180. Asked for suggestions of location – potential position at Seilebost school as a picnic bench.

Land Sales Policy: Approved, see attached.

Facilities Manager's Report (appendix 3):

Cattle grid: Breedon have bolted this down. Grip paint applied during summer has not lasted – a more permanent solution needed.

Septic tank: Checked the staining – water is clear, this appears to be a discolouration

Snagging: Heating still a concern across site – meeting on site at end of month set up with CC North to go through system processes.

Horgabost Turbine: Ecocel have been and the turbine is running smoothly.

Scarista Turbine: Update expected by Friday.

Road safety concerns: potential need for rumble strips or other road safety measure on road outside Talla Na Mara.

First Aid: Facilities Manager attended first aid course.

Harris Forum Update (appendix 4) Appeal for ideas of Trust priorities. Diana suggested investigation of the local demand for a potential community polytunnel scheme.

6. **Health and Safety**

No updates

7. **AOCB**

Marquee: Questioned possibility of getting a lifting hook for assembly and take down. Linda has looked into this before- not easy. The same directors are assisting with the marquee each time- other members of the Trust be approached.

Possibility of making a permanent extension, question over how it would be funded. Agreed to make this a main point on next meeting's agenda.

Sewerage: Charges to houses under dispute. Cost currently set as approximately 1/3 of total cost for the houses and this will be calculated by council tax band.

Hydro: Damage during bad weather week beginning 17/09 still under investigation. Awaiting response from loss adjusters. Quotation of £340 per day hire of digger to divert river away from power house. A request was made to clear the fence line for sheep coming off moor.

Broadband: covered in Action Points

Archaeology: suggested new graduate will cover archaeological projects - approved

Rolling out of Working Groups: recapped members of Working Groups. Neil Campbell to step in on the Staff Working Group during Roddy Macdonald's absence

Pontoon/Moorings: Winter storage site required.

Our plan for Harris: Any updates to be sent to Linda Armstrong.

Draft Payment Policy: read and approved

John Muir MOU: read and approved

Horgabost planning: Richard updated on planning situation – full planning now put in for chemical waste disposal. Agreed for the Trust to write a letter of support. Richard will hold a meeting to discuss with local crofters and Horgabost residents- suggested independent chair for meeting- potentially approach local councillor.

8. **Date of Next Meeting:**

Meeting finished at 8:30pm

Next Meeting: 30th October 2018