

MINUTES – DIRECTOR’S MEETING 17th December 2019 at 6.30pm

1. Attendance

Present: Murdo MacKay (Chairman), Roddy MacDonald (Vice-Chairman), Neil Campbell (Secretary), Diana Calvert, Neil MacDonald, Norman Ian MacKay, Finlay MacLennan, George MacLeod, Linda Armstrong (Commercial Manager) and Deborah Coghill (Administrator)

Apologies: Rhoda MacDonald and Richard MacLennan

2. Declaration of Interest: No Declarations of Interest

3. Minutes of 19th November 2019: Approved

Minutes of Emergency Meeting of 4th December 2019: Approved

4. Action Points: See Updates (below)

5. Updates

Financial:

December Cash Flow Projections were presented.

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

Commercial Manager’s Report (Appendix 1):

MK: The *Machair Kitchen* have now submitted their written notice which ends on 5th March 2020 with the possibility of bringing the date forward if mutually agreed.

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

Snagging: Sewer snagging is still causing issues.

Septic Tank Snagging: Work has already been completed, so if the problem arises again Chris MacVicar of O’Mac has said for the Trust to get back in touch with them and there may be scope for O’Mac to help with sorting it.

Health and Safety: The Fire Doors need larger intumescent strips to close the gap. Billy has a PASMA ticket so if he can get a copy of it from the Distillery he can be the WHT’s “responsible person” for the scaffolding.

Gallery: Charity Exhibition for June 2020 has been launched. So far there has been a good uptake.

New Hookups: Pre-start meeting has taken place and the contractors are expected on site on 6th January 2020, with the work scheduled to take six weeks finishing on 14th February. Facilities block is not powdered coated and Linda is waiting to hear back from the company to see if it will rust. If we do get the Facilities Block then Environmental Health intimated will be happy for us to add the seven extra pitches to

our existing licence. The Directors agreed that Linda should proceed with a planning application once location identified.

JMT Ranger Service: The post has been advertised and interviews should take place in January 2020.

Housing: HHP have been disappointed with the uptake for the new houses and only two have so far been allocated. Poor advertisement and high cost are likely to be the main causes. HHP will carry out a survey to determine why there has been so little interest. The Trust also received a **request for a loan** to purchase a house but after discussion this was declined.

Archaeology Projects:

Visual Archaeology Project: Carolyn had applied to **Interface** for a visual archaeology project but found out quite late on that the Trust would have to provide £5000 of match funding. Linda has subsequently spoken to **Interface** and it appears that the £5000 **could** potentially be in kind, but at the moment we don't have the staff resources to do this. So **Interface** have agreed to put this on hold for the moment until such time as the Trust has staff able to take this forward.

Scarista Land Raids: Linda has spoken to the Heritage Lottery Fund and they have agreed to extend the grant to the end of April and the underspend to be used to research the Scarista Land Raids. George has agreed to go down to Edinburgh in February and research this with Iain Robertson. Iain will also come up to Harris to do a talk to the community, and money has been set aside to provide another Interpretation Panel. The Directors agreed to cover the cost of any extra spend that there might be.

Hydro: Savills have been asked to do a valuation of the Seilebost Hydro and the North Harris Hydro and we should have the figures by the end of the year (2019). *Energy4all* are waiting to get access to the same information as Savills to allow them to carry out financial modelling to decide if they are able to help the Trust. Also speaking to the *Energy Investment Fund*.

Harbon Turbine: The turbine is now turning, and John Daniel hopes to come back tomorrow (18th) to increase the speed at which the turbine cuts off. We have paid another Invoice, but there remains about £10k left to paid.

2020 Calendars: Every household in the Trust area to be given a Calendar and the Directors have agreed to distribute them.

Harris Forum

A new fund from the Crown Estates has been started with the Western Isles being awarded the most. Just over £100,000 will be allocated to Harris and the Harris Forum have been tasked with deciding which projects in Harris get the money. Suggestions need to be submitted by the date of the next Forum meeting on 7th January 2020.

6. **Health and Safety:** One incident was reported.

7. **AOCB:**

Community Land Outer Hebrides Brief: The idea is that all the Community Land Groups in the Western Isles should combine as one group and form an organisation. This would enable them to pool information and resources to minimise duplication and extra work. This paper was put together to see if such an organisation can be formed. Feedback is needed before the next meeting of the CLOHB in April. Funding may also be available from HIE to benefit this organisation. The general feeling amongst the Directors was that it was a good concept, especially for smaller groups like West Harris Trust. So, in principle the Trust are happy to support.

Close: The Meeting finished at 7.29pm.

Next Meeting: 21st January 2020

Proposed dates for 2020

18th February

17th March

21st April

19th May

16th June

18th August

15th September

20th October

17th November

15th December