

MINUTES – DIRECTOR’S MEETING 18th August 2020 at 6.00pm by Zoom

1. Attendance

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

Apologies: Dougie Ferguson, Rhoda MacDonald, and George MacLeod

2. Declaration of Interest: No Declarations of Interest

3. Minutes of 27th May 2020: Approved

Minutes of 22nd June 2020: Approved

4. Matters Arising: As there had not been quorum for the meeting on 27th May 2020, all the decisions of that meeting were subsequently (informally) agreed by a majority via email, to be then ratified at this (August) Meeting. They were not ratified at the June Meeting since that that Meeting had been for the sole purpose of deciding whether or not to re-open *Talla na Mara*. The May decisions were as follows:-

1. *This item has been removed for confidentiality and will be restored when confidentiality is no longer required.*
2. *This item has been removed for confidentiality and will be restored when confidentiality is no longer required.*
3. Agreed to seek an amendment to the Aspiring Communities Fund project, with the project staff to work with the community to aid its recovery from Covid-19.
4. Schedule of signatories for the Aspiring Communities Fund agreed.
5. Agreed to permit Flavour to extend their product range as per Linda’s report.
6. Agreed to proceed with the purchase of the facilities block for the new hook-up site.
7. Agreed that the Horgabost & Seilebost Grazings would be charged for 10% of electricity consumed at the Cliff, approximately £24 p.a..
8. *This item has been removed for confidentiality and will be restored when confidentiality is no longer required.*
9. Agreed that it was the Trusts' preference that weddings be restricted to 80 guests so as not to require the use of the marquee. However, would agree to the use of the marquee for one month only per year, with an external contractor to erect and dismantle the marquee.
10. Agreed to be more flexible in 2021 to allow for cancelled/postponed weddings, though preference would be that the marquee was only used in April and for one other month.
11. Agreed to proceed with ordering the parts to allow for the installation of the generator.

5. Updates:

Financial

June Profit & Loss YTD figures and Cash Flow Projections were provided.

The 2019 Accounts were **approved**.

Commercial Manager's Report

Camping: Opened at the beginning of August and have been almost fully booked since then and into September. The toilets are closed when the restaurant is shut.

Seilebost School: Caroline has moved out and we are waiting for HDL to remove the warp equipment. Linda will give them two weeks to remove it and then will advertise the space.

Estate Management: Linda has shared the "Habitat Impact Assessment" that Clara had carried out for the Trust. Not surprisingly there is little evidence of deer across the estate.

Covid Signage: Signage popping up around the estate reminding people to use hand sanitiser. Borge Lodge has kindly funded the signage for about 25 gates. The Directors expressed their thanks to Borge Lodge for this.

Aspiring Communities Fund: Due to Covid-19 the start date has been put back to October, but the Directors agreed that the Trust can start advertising the positions as soon as possible.

Scarista Land Raids: Volunteers were sought to help with the Gaelic translation of the panel. The Heritage Lottery Fund have agreed to push the funding deadline to the end of October due to Covid-19.

PN Hookups: As we have not received an official grant offer, and as we do not plan to open the toilets and showers at present, it didn't seem prudent to order the facilities block from Wernicks just now. The Directors agreed that it was wise to leave ordering it until into the New Year.

The Cliff: Agreed to contribute 10% of the electricity cost.

Hardwick Estate: Volunteers were sought to meet with representatives of the Hardwick Estate who are on a fact finding trip.

Bins: After discussion the Directors agreed to a Bin Store being built at TnM nearer the camping pitches to encourage **just** the campers to use them.

Camping Spots: Leave as they are for now. A small working group (Murdo MacKay and Richard MacLennan) to look at managing campers and increasing charges for future years.

Moorings: Waiting to hear back from Borge Lodge re pontoon rent.

6. **Harris Forum:** Neil Campbell has resigned from the Forum and it was agreed that Linda take his place at meetings. Neil MacDonald gave a summary of some of the other issues discussed at the meeting.
7. **Health and Safety:** No incidents reported.

A new Safe Working Procedure is being put in place for the Renewables that will state that any visits to the Renewable sites, must have **two** people in attendance if work is intending to be done on those visits.

8. **AOCB**

Broadband: Work to be progressed and should be in by end of November – Scarista, Horgabost & Seilebost.

Harris Plan: Include Horticulture Project and Aspiring Communities Project.

AGM: It was decided to go ahead with the AGM before the end of September via ZOOM

9. **Close:** The Meeting finished at 7.38pm.

Meeting had cut out at 7.03pm but resumed shortly afterwards

Next Meeting : 15th December 2020

Proposed dates for 2021

19th January

16th February

16th March

20th April

18th May

15th June