

MINUTES – DIRECTOR’S MEETING 17th November 2020 at 6.00pm by Zoom

1. Attendance

Present: Murdo MacKay (Chairman), Diana Calvert, Neil Campbell (Secretary), Dougie Ferguson, Neil MacDonald, Rhoda MacDonald, Roddy MacDonald, Linda Armstrong (Commercial Manager), Iain MacIver (and Deborah Coghill (Administrator)

Apologies: No apologies received.

2. **Declaration of Interest:** No Declarations of Interest for **this** meeting (but see under email decisions – Seilebost Renovation)
3. **Minutes of 18th August 2020:** Approved with the amendment of adding Rhoda MacDonald to those present in that meeting
4. **Matters Arising:** No Matter Arising not already included in Commercial Manager’s Report.
5. **Updates:**

Financial

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

Commercial Manager’s Report

Decisions previously taken by email

22/09/20

Clara Rissi contract extension

Extend Clara’s contract for a further 6 months beyond March 2021. Salary costs will be shared with the John Muir Trust, North Harris Trust and Galson Estate Trust. Our contribution will be reduced by charging for guided walks, with the remainder being met by the Trust.

Majority agreed – yes

Update 05/11/20

Galson Estate Trust have decided to not proceed, increasing the Trust’s contribution to £4000. Decision required on whether to proceed.

25/09/20

Kickstart employment scheme – group application managed by DTAS aimed at providing employment opportunities for under 25s. Scheme covers full employment cost for 6 months (minimum wage, ER NI and ER pension contribution) and also a one off £1500 payment to cover equipment, travel, training etc. Agreement requested to identify possible roles, making an application when the scheme opens.

Majority agreed – yes

19/10/20

Seilebost renovation - Community Tourism Infrastructure Fund

Make an application for £130,000 to the Community Tourism Infrastructure Fund for the renovation of the toilets at Seilebost School, with the Trust contributing £20,000.

Majority agreed – yes

Murdo declared an interest.

Seilebost School: The Directors agreed to moving the school onto electric heating and remove the oil tank etc. They also agreed that the School should be registered for VAT so that we are able to reclaim VAT expenditure on the renovation. The Directors agreed that they would waive the rent for Fiona MacKinnon whilst the renovations were ongoing. It was agreed that Linda would contact the Directors via email when the tenders were returned for approval as time is short.

Aspiring Communities Fund: Iain MacIver (Project Officer) and Romi Benedetti were welcomed to the Trust.

Gunnera Eradication: It was agreed that Chris could go outwith the West Harris boundaries and help with Gunnera Eradication in Northton and Leverburgh.

Scarista Land Raids: The new panel has now been fixed to the entrance way beside the other panels. Linda reminded the Directors of the talk taking place on Friday 27th November

Alasdair Allan Card Sponsorship: The Directors agreed not to support this initiative.

Harris Forum: They are currently meeting quite regularly. The main topics of conversation are currently Housing, the Crown Estate Fund and the Executive Headship for the Harris schools. Harris Development Ltd are looking to take forward the individual block style housing for temporary staff. The Crown Estate fund deadline is for later this month.

Renewables: The Harbon has been struck by lightening so this will need to be repaired. The insurance company have informed us that this is covered by the current policy.

Furlough: *This item has been removed for confidentiality and will be restored when confidentiality is no longer required.*

PN Hookups: As part of the snagging, the puddles at the entrance to the gate are expected to be addressed.

6. **Aspiring Communities:** Iain introduced himself and gave a brief update of how he has been getting on the past few weeks since starting. He is applying to the Crown Estate Fund for funding to set up a horticultural group. Iain has also been looking into all the different Covid-19 rules and how they will impact the project at the moment.

7. **Health and Safety:** No incidents reported.

8. **AOCB**

Broadband: The roads are being dug up but no further update from HIE.

Staff Salaries: Circulate via email to Directors

Loch na Duin: Linda is to contact Aecom to see what can be done to reduce the volume in it.

9. **Close:** The Meeting finished at 7.15pm.

Next Meeting : 15th December 2020

Proposed dates for 2021

19th January

16th February

16th March

20th April

18th May

22nd June

17th August

21st September

19th October

16th November

21st December