



MEETING OF THE DIRECTORS OF THE WESTERN ISLES DEVELOPMENT TRUST (COMPANY NUMBER SC271462)

Meeting of Board of Directors held in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Sandwick Road, Stornoway; VC to Balivanich Council Offices (Meeting Room); and VC to the Learning Centre, Barra on Tuesday 27 March 2018 at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Nominated Members

Norman A. MacDonald (Director and Nominated Member) Chair
Carola Bell (Director and Nominated Member) Vice Chair
John Mackay (Director and Nominated Member)
Iain Archie MacNeil (Director and Nominated Member)
David Cameron (Director and Nominated Member)
Norman MacDonald (Director and Nominated Member)
David Muir (Director and Nominated Member)
Stewart Wilson (Director and Nominated Member)
Colin Maclean (Director and Nominated Member)

Elected Members

Neil MacLennan (on behalf of CBAB Elected Member for Barra and Ordinary Member)
Roddy Jardine (Elected Member for Barra and Ordinary Member)
Andrew Walker (Elected Director for Uist and Ordinary Member)
Jane Morrison-Ross (Elected Director for Uist and Ordinary Member)
Calum Mackay (Elected Director for Harris and Ordinary Member)
Donnie Morrison (Elected Director for Lewis and Ordinary Member)
Andrew Mackenzie (Elected Director for Lewis and Ordinary Member)

APOLOGIES

Hector MacLeod (Director and Nominated Member)
Iain Maciver (Director and Nominated Member)
John Mitchell (Elected Director Harris and Ordinary Member)

IN ATTENDANCE

Lesley McDonald
Allan MacDonald

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed the directors to the meeting (with a special welcome to new directors).
The meeting was quorate.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 27 FEBRUARY 2018

- The Minutes of the meeting of 30 January 2018 were approved with a correction at Item 8 replacing "John MacLean" with "John Macleod".

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

4. BRIEF SUMMARY OF COMPANY FOR NEW DIRECTORS

The Chair gave a summary of the Company including an explanation of the type of applications that would be supported by the Company, namely applications that met the objectives of the Company and the current main focus on assisting projects that will support the alleviation of fuel poverty and promote renewable energy schemes.

Concerns were raised that those two objectives were not within the objects of the Company (as expressed in the Company's Articles) and, further, that any applications which met the objects of the Company per the Company's Articles should be supported. There was a concern that the Company had a substantial amount of money but had restricted itself too much in how it was dispersing those funds. Further concerns/suggestions included:

- There are no standing orders for the Company;
- The website lacks detail including a list of beneficiaries;
- The Company is too close to the Comhairle, there is a perception that it is a Comhairle run organisation. It should be independent of the Comhairle and consider employing someone to undertake administrative work;
- Scoring Criteria should be on the website;
- There needed to be better communication;
- Concern in the community about the Company - there was a serious credibility issue;
- There should be a handbook for members;
- There should be a review of the Company (which is normal for any Company) – this is a good time given there are new directors on the Board; and
- Beneficiaries should be required to give feedback.

The Chair stated that the current focus of the Board for supporting projects fell within the objects of the Company and further that there was no requirement for the Company to support every application which met the objects. It was justifiable that the criteria were focused whilst the income of the Company was limited. Once the larger developments came on stream it would be possible to fund a greater range of projects. He also stated that without Comhairle input the income would not have been secured for the Company. The Chair stated that all these concerns should be discussed at a meeting outwith the normal course of Board meetings and directors would attend in person rather than by VC. It was suggested that this take place in the next 6 weeks and be held at a venue which would take into account the location of all directors (i.e. in south Harris or North Uist).

- **A meeting is to be organised within the next 6 weeks to discuss the concerns raised above.**
- **A copy of the Company's Articles is to be distributed to directors. [Note: sent via email by on 29/3/18];**
- **Information requested on Finances (income and expenditure) [Note: sent via email on 29/3/18];**
- **Information on beneficiaries and Company members should be send to directors [Note: sent via email by on 29/3/18];**

5. APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING

- No applications received.

6. EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST RECEIVED

- i. Coimhearsnachd Bharraidh agus Bhatarsaidh (Barra & Vatersay Community) Ltd 'Save a Penny' Project.

Directors stated it was an interesting project but it did not meet with current criteria. There were also concerns that savings would be made by Scottish Water which would not necessarily benefit the Western Isles.

- **It was resolved that the Project did not meet the criteria of the Company and the applicant would not be invited to submit a full application.**

- ii. Leverburgh Village Hall (enquiry not received).

7. CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION

There was a question raised as to why there was difficulty in amending the mandate. It was explained that the bank appeared to change its requirements in respect of which forms needed to be completed. The new form would be completed and returned.

- **Report noted.**
- **Correction: change "1 November 2018" in the Report to "1 November 2017"**

8. RESIGNATION AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

- **The Report was noted and the Company resolved to place on record its appreciation for the work of the Comhairle nan Eilean Election team for conducting the election and to those Ordinary Members who took part in the process.**

9. UPDATE FROM URRAS OIGHREACHD BHARABHAIS 'BARVAS LOCAL ENERGY SUPPLY' PROJECT

The reference in the update about a potential second application was queried. The Chair advised that there was nothing to prevent it. The preference would be for the applicant to seek a loan rather than a grant. A further update was to be sought for a month's time.

- **A further update would be required for the next meeting.**

10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will take place on Tuesday 27 April 2018.

11. AOCB

N/A

END.