



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

Meeting of Western Isles Development Trust held at Council Chambers, Council Offices, Sandwick Road, Stornoway; VC to Balivanich Council Offices (Committee Room); and VC to LCC, Barra at 5pm on Thursday 25 October 2018;

PRESENT

Nominated Members

Norman A. MacDonald (Director and Nominated Member) Chair
Carola Bell (Director and Nominated Member) Vice Chair
Norman MacDonald (Director and Nominated Member)
Fiona Stokes (Community Land Scotland Nominated Member)
David Muir (Director and Nominated Member)
Iain Maciver (Director and Nominated Member)
Iain Archie MacNeil (Director and Nominated Member)

Elected Members

Donnie Morrison (Elected Director for Lewis and Ordinary Member)
Andrew Walker (Elected Director for Uist and Ordinary Member)
Sarah Maclean (CBAB Elected Member, Barra)
Calum MacKay (Director and Nominated Member)

APOLOGIES

John Mackay (Director and Nominated Member)
Jane Morrison-Ross (Elected Director for Uist and Ordinary Member)
Andrew Mackenzie (Elected Director for Lewis and Ordinary Member)
John Mitchell (Elected Director Harris and Ordinary Member)

IN ATTENDANCE

Alex Macritchie
Allan MacDonald

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed the directors to the meeting. The meeting was quorate.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 27 SEPTEMBER 2018

- The Minutes of the meeting of 27 September 2018 were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising.

4. EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

i. Lochmaddy Community Centre

The EoI was received late. Nevertheless the decision was taken to consider the submission (as it was a first stage enquiry).

- The decision was taken to invite Lochmaddy Community Centre to submit a full application whilst making it clear that it was required to meet the criteria of the Board if it were to be successful. The applicant was to be advised that the application would be more likely to be successful if: the intervention rate could be reduced to 50%; the applicant could show it had explored other sources of funding and the applicant could provide more information on the current underfloor heating system and why it was not operational.

5. APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING

i. Taigh Sgìre Sholais

The application was received late. The decision was taken that the Board did not have sufficient time to consider the application.

- The application was not considered. The applicant would be asked to re-submit ensuring that the application was complete and that the application focused on the Board's priorities.
- All applications (both Eols and full applications) must be submitted a week before the Board meeting (unless in exceptional circumstances).

6. CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION

- Report was noted.

7. REQUEST TO AMEND GRANT AWARD: NUDC TRADING LIMITED

- It was agreed to increase the Loan amount from £13,000 to £25,000 and to grant the borrower a repayment holiday of 1 year (only if the Comhairle's Finance department held that to be competent). [Update – the department had no reason to believe the repayment holiday was not competent and the loan was therefore issued and signed].

8. WEBSITE & CRITERIA FOR DISBURSEMENT FUNDS

Directors discussed the criteria for disbursement of funds in detail. The discussion included the following points:

- It was stated that the proposed improvements to the website would assist applicants and would encourage a greater range of applications;
- A number of directors felt that the process should be open to applications that met the wider company objectives although it was understood that those relating to the distilled criteria would naturally score better (in reply it was stated that that reflected the current position);
- A director felt that a proportion of funds should be available for applications that did not meet the distilled criteria but did meet the wider criteria and that a limited amount of funds should be set aside for that purpose each year;
- It was stated that the website was crucial as a starting point - the website should make clear why the distilled objectives were being promoted;
- The fund should be a cleaner source of funding – the process should be simpler than other sources of funding;
- The website should not say 'you will not get funding if you do not meet the distilled criteria' rather 'you are more likely to get funding if you meet those criteria';
- The Shetland Charitable Trust website was held as an example of a user friendly website;

- It was suggested that community councils should be more involved as they were more aware problems faced by the communities i.e. in respect of fuel poverty - the impact of the role out of Universal Credit would likely exacerbate fuel poverty;
- There was a suggestion that the score sheet should be amended; and
- It was noted that those seeking loans would score higher. A greater number of loans should be promoted. Loans would preserve the fund and would help sustainable development in a greater number of communities.
- **The Board agreed that Directors were to send input on the proposed website changes (to encourage more applications) to Jane Morrison-Ross directly.**

9. TRAINING FOR DIRECTORS

- **The training proposal was accepted but other charities would not be invited to attend. Mr Liddell would be invited to the Board Meeting and would be asked to provide a view on proceedings. [Update – over 50% of directors agreed by email that the updated fee proposal was acceptable].**
- **Uist and Barra directors were invited to attend in Stornoway. Expenses would be reimbursed by the Company.**

10. TRIBUTE TO RODDY JARDINE

- **Tributes were paid to Roddy Jardine and his contribution to the Company and to the Western Isles more generally. A new director would be sought for Barra next year.**

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- **Thursday 29 November at 5pm**

12. AOCB

The Chair advised the Board of a letter received from the Chief Executive of the Comhairle stating that the Comhairle was withdrawing its administrative support and the Company should begin to prepare for an alternative. The letter was distributed to directors present in Stornoway.

- **The Chair would discuss further with the Chief Executive of the Comhairle and consider the matter at the next meeting.**

END.