



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

Minutes of Meeting of Western Isles Development Trust Date & Time:
5pm, Thursday 27 August 2020;

Venue: Remotely by Microsoft Teams only.

PRESENT

Nominated Members

Norman A. MacDonald (Director and Nominated Member) Chair
David Wake (Director and Nominated Member)
John MacKay (Director and Nominated Member)
Sheena Stewart (Director and Nominated Member)
David Muir (Director and Nominated Member)
Fiona Stokes (Director and Nominated Member)

Elected Members

Donnie Morrison (Elected Director for Lewis and Ordinary Member)
Betty McAtear (on behalf of CBAB)

APOLOGIES

John Mitchell (Elected Director for Harris and Ordinary Member)
Iain Archie MacNeil (Director and Nominated Member)
Stewart Wilson (Director and Nominated Member)
Iain Maciver (Director and Nominated Member)
Norman MacDonald (Director and Nominated Member)
Andrew Mackenzie (Elected Director for Lewis and Ordinary Member)
Calum MacKay (Elected Director for Harris and Nominated Member)
Kirsty MacCormick (Elected Director for Uist)

IN ATTENDANCE

Allan MacDonald (Chief Executive's Office, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar)

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

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

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 30 JULY 2020

The Minutes of the meeting of 30 July 2020 were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING

At Item 5 of the meeting of 30 July 2020 the Board discussed the request from North Uist Development Company Limited for any loan interest due by it to be written off if it repaid the balance of the loan (£8,000) in early course.

The Board wished to support the request however a director understood that the Company (as a charity) was precluded from providing an interest free loan. The Board took the decision that the request would be accepted if there were no impediment in doing so. Since the meeting the matter has been considered and there is no longer a concern. Therefore the request will be accepted.

- **No interest will be charged on the North Uist Development Company Limited loan if the balance of the loan (£8,000) is repaid in early course.**

4. MAIN FUND EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

- **There were no applications received.**

5. MAIN FUND APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING

- **There were no applications received.**

6. DIRECTORS' INSURANCE COVER

There had been no updates received from either provider since the report. Therefore a decision could not be taken at this meeting.

- **A decision will be taken by email when confirmation is received from the relevant companies that they can provide cover.**

7. CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION

The Chair provided an update on the Transocean funds held by WIDT for the Dalmore community. The community had decided the proposed coastal protection works were no longer feasible. WIDT would continue to hold the funds until required.

An update was provided on the mandate for the new signatories. It is understood that the form remains with one of the proposed signatories. Directors also wished to look at internet banking again.

A letter was to be sent to Point and Sandwick Power Limited in relation to the invoice which it had yet to pay.

- **Report was noted.**
- **Information on internet banking was to be issued for the next meeting.**
- **A letter was to be sent by the Chair to Point and Sandwick Power Limited in relation to the invoice which it had yet to pay.**

8. SMALL GRANTS FUND

Directors discussed the report on the criteria for the Small Grants Fund. It was decided that match funding would no longer be needed however it could add weight to an application (including in kind contribution). It was also suggested that an applicant should not be successful two years in succession. That will not be put in place as yet however the matter will be monitored. It was also decided that estimates should not be sought nor should beneficiaries be required to report back on schemes unless requested to do so.

- **Match funding will no longer be needed.**
- **Estimates will not be needed.**
- **Beneficiaries will not be required to report back unless requested to do so.**

9. COLL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL LOAN SUMS

The email from CCDT for £6,350.20 to be added to the loan facility was discussed. The Directors were uncomfortable with the request and felt it could set a precedent. Further information was to be requested. It was a concern that these costs were not envisaged at the beginning of the project (given they appeared to relate to VAT and the prevalence of Hen Harriers in the area of the proposed windfarm). It was necessary to find out what had gone wrong. One director suggested that amending the loan may cause issues with the regulator. It was suggested that that was unlikely however the matter would be considered further.

- The request was refused pending an improved case being presented.
- The requirement for contacting the regulator for an amendment to the loan would be considered further.

10. STANDING ITEM - WEBSITE UPDATE. OPPORTUNITY FOR SUB GROUP TO UPDATE THE BOARD.

Donnie Morrison advised that he had produced a paper which required comment from other sub group members before it was sent to Judy Macdonald to put in place. Mr Morrison also advised that he would be happy to be a shared administrator in respect of social media pages.

11. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

- Thursday 24 September 2020 at 5.00pm using Microsoft Teams.

END.