

# NORTH HARRIS TRUST

## MINUTE OF MEETING

**TITLE** : The North Harris Trust

**DATE** : 27:01:2025

**TIME** : 7.30pm

**VENUE** : Tigh an Urrais

Present: Michael Hunter (MH), Kirsty MacKay, Calum MacKay, Barbara MacKay, D J Morrison, Diana MacLennan, Robert MacKinnon, Phil Butterfield, David Wake, Fañch Bihan-Gallic, Steven Morrison, Paul Russ, Kate Lewis, John Sutton

Item	Summary and Action	Who?	When?
1.	Apologies Stuart King		
2.	Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Minutes were approved by Phil Butterfield and seconded by Robert MacKinnon.</li></ul>		
3.	Conflicts of Interest <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>None</li></ul>		
4.	Annual Strategic Objectives Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The objectives were discussed and scored according to performance over the past 12 months.</li></ul>		
5.	Action Points from Community Consultations <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The outcome document from the Community Consultation was discussed. It was decided to include a brief description of the action points from the meetings in the document and MH will circulate to Directors for feedback.</li></ul>	MH	Before next meeting
6.	Draft Community Letter <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>MH is preparing a Draft Community Letter to encourage membership and to improve communication to members. MH will circulate for comment once completed.</li></ul>	MH	Before next meeting
7.	Staff Reports and Matters Arising Staff Reports were circulated and tabled.  <b>Matters Arising from Staff Reports:</b>		

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	<p><b>Development Officer – David Wake (DW)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Costs are being sought for replacing the shop/office at Urgha Depot with HIE suggesting that they might be able to offer a funding contribution.</li> <li>• The contractor has completed the bases for the houses at Meavaig and blockwork is due to start in the next couple of weeks. The Housing Sub-group will meet in two weeks to discuss the current housing projects.</li> <li>• Planning has been granted for the toilets at Meavaig and DW is awaiting a starting date from the contractor.</li> </ul> <p><b>Estate Worker – Ian Strachan (IS)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IS has been working with the school with a view to renovate their polytunnel but has been informed that there's a possibility that they could be getting a new one.</li> <li>• The idea of providing trees at the Depot for planting has been successful.</li> <li>• Concerns were raised over the condition of the path at Glen Meavaig.</li> <li>• The gate at the tree plantation is broken and it was suggested to repair or replace it with fencing. A more suitable gate will be installed at the entry to the path.</li> </ul> <p><b>Manager – Michael Hunter (MH)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MH wished FBG well in his new position with Harvard University and expressed thanks for all his work with the Trust. A get together to wish Fañch well will be held in Tigh an Urrais on Friday afternoon at 3pm.</li> <li>• No applications were received for the Ranger post. The level of Gaelic required was discussed and MH will clarify with Bòrd na Gaidhlig before re advertising the post.</li> <li>• MH proposed, if Gunnera funding is confirmed by CnES for 25-26, to employ 2 additional staff members from mid-April to mid-October to undertake spraying.</li> <li>• There is a Harris Forum EGM tomorrow night (Tues 28<sup>th</sup>) which Calum and possibly Kirsty will attend.</li> <li>• It was agreed to request a revised payment of £1000 per plot for a Deed of Servitude for the plots at Ceann an Ora.</li> <li>• The Board were asked whether they were willing to transfer an area of the West Loch Pier solum to CnES and cover Trust legal costs for the process. The Board agreed.</li> <li>• HHP have agreed the wording with MH on the offer to sell for the proposed Scott Road housing.</li> <li>• The site for the SSE substation at Ceann an Ora/Monan has been valued at just over £20k.</li> <li>• Signed consents for the extended area at Monan Wind Turbines have been received from common grazings shareholders, one objection was received. The Board are happy to proceed.</li> <li>• The Land Court have received an objection to the Resumption for the Ardvourlie Outdoor Hub. The Trust need to respond to the Land Court within four weeks.</li> <li>• MH is awaiting Mann Judd Gordon to confirm a date for the AGM.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ranger – Fañch Bihan-Gallic (FBG)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FBG has prepared a Ranger guidebook as part of his handover documents and advised of future Ranger commitments. FBG has compiled all the information related to his work and shared it to the company drive for his replacement.</li> </ul>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FBG requested to continue with the Gaelic Place Names project he has invested a lot of time in. The Board agreed.</li> <li>• Directors thanked FBG for all his hard work with the Trust during his time in employment and expressed that he would be missed.</li> </ul>			
8.	<b>Draft Gaelic Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FBG has designed a Gaelic Policy for the Trust. This was tabled and will be discussed further.</li> </ul>		
9.	<b>AOCB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No items to discuss.</li> </ul>		
10.	<b>DONM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025. 7.30pm @ Tigh an Urrais and Zoom.</li> </ul>		