

Minutes of Horshader AGM

Thursday 2nd February 2017

Present:

David Wright – South Shawbost

Eileen Macdonald - Dalmore

Diane Smith – South Shawbost

Catriona Macleod – South Shawbost

Apologies:

Iain Macarthur (South Shawbost)

Di Hesketh (South Shawbost)

Angus Macarthur (Dalbeg)

Community

Dalmore – 2 members

South Shawbost – 9 members

Dalbeg – no members

1. Welcome and introduction

Eileen as acting chair welcomed all present to the meeting and apologies were given from directors. Reports on chairs and accounts circulated. Please raise anything at either this meeting or after.

2. No proxy votes received.

3. Chairs report and accounts

As previously mentioned.

4. Resignations

Di Hesketh is resigning. Eileen is resigning but will stand again. David Wright was welcomed back. Donald John Murray nominated and agreed. One directors place is vacant therefore two new directors. Please contact our office if you wish to be nominated as a director.

5. Matters arising

Ali Maclennan – uncertain financial climate?

Eileen – We have funding ending in March. We have applied for funding from CCF. The board will need to consider all this at the end of February.

Ali Maclennan – the future of the shop and when are decisions are likely to be made?

Eileen – no decisions made until we see our financial future. We did send out questionnaires to the community but the response was poor.

David – we have some ideas, discussions on second hand shop, swap shop for school uniforms to aid recycling. We could also have a snack/coffee shop tied in with the second hand shop. We could sell second hand electrical goods which could be tested prior to sale with a piece of machinery that could be purchased by HCD.

David – The finances going forward will mean tough decisions will need to be made however HCD has a strong standing. Electricity prices and going down however feed in tariff is a big part of our income and it is healthy. 10.4p per unit is received for the feed in tariff. This is guaranteed for 20 years. We get the highest feed in tariff in the Western Isles from all the community turbines.

External funding

David – We are subject to this. Funding streams which were available previously are now no longer available. This is tied into Brexit. We are not too concerned as the turbine is our backbone. We can look at other methods of generating income to boost HCD funding.

Growing project

David – This is going to be developed considerably. We will rent a 2 acre field which we will use for root crops. We have 2 gardeners who have developed a plan for this year. The plan is to grow tomatoes, experiment with hydroponics growing lettuce into these hydroponic beds.

Previous income was £800 per annum. The current plan hopes to bring in income of up to £20,000.

The two gardeners are very keen and hardworking.

Due to the financial position, we are keen to work on the current projects.

The development of Loch a' Bhaile will be looked at in the future in conjunction with the Barvas Estate. The play park is a future project when finances are healthier.

Questions

Ali Maclennan – I am happy to hear you mention working with the Barvas Estate on future projects.

David – Yes definitely. We would need to ensure we are financially secure before starting any project.

Eileen – We have been in touch with Carloway Community and will work together to develop projects together. There is a lot of good will between HCD and Carloway Community.

Minibus and handyman service

David – We see this service as essential. Funding ends at the end of March. HCD will support these two services going forward.

Polytunnels

David – It is essential to keep this going.

Volunteer Drivers

We have 6 at the moment.

David – our intention is to make a pool of drivers. The school run is essential and the issue of drivers will be addressed.

Jimina Macleod – Would you develop the service further e.g our kids go to Barvas on a Saturday/Tuesday if the bus offered a service at 50p a child.

David – we can certainly look at that.

Eileen – Please give us details of what they need for us to look at what can be done.

Clann a Latha an De no longer have a driver so will rely on volunteer drivers. Suggestion made to ask the group if they have anyone who could do the Midas training.

Eileen – HCD will pay for volunteers to do the Midas training.

David – Should you have any questions about the financial report, please contact us.

Two people interested in attending the training – Iain Macdonald and Flora Macleod. HCD will contact Staran to arrange training.

Mark Bradley

Mark has been involved in the polytunnels looking at growing plants as wind breaks, demand is greater than supply. Wind breaks help warm houses and saves carbon. Funding is available for some of these carbon saving ideas. Mark carried out a feasibility study as to whether this can/should be done here. This is in favour politically at the moment and a report is in the process of completion.

External funding is available for the glass panel ideas. It would be up to HCD to decide whether to take part.

This type of renewable would be exactly what HCD aimed to do via its core values.

David – Agreed this needs more discussion within the board to move it forward.

6. Appointment of directors

Standing down – Di Hesketh, Mairi Maclean, Eileen Macdonald

Re-instated – Eileen Macdonald

Appointed – David Wright, Donald J Murray

We need 1 more from the South Shawbost area as Dalmore and Dalbeg are represented.

7. Places 1) David Wright 2) Eileen Macdonald 3) Catriona Macleod 4) Angus Macarthur 5) Iain Macarthur 6) Diane Smith 7) Donald J Murray 8) VACANT

Meeting closed at 7.55pm.