

Minutes of the HCDT Board Meeting on 01 November 2018

Present: Flora MacLeod; Jimina MacLeod; Domhnall MacLeod; Mary Maclean; and Alan Murray (Development Officer).

Apologies: Alisdair Wiseman.

Venue: Raebhat House.

Housekeeping

- **Previous Board Meeting minutes:** Flora signed the previous Board Meeting minutes and added them to the Minute Book.

Actions from previous meetings

- **Visit to West Harris Trust:** The Board suggested that they could possibly make a visit to the West Harris Trust part of their Xmas outing for directors. The Board will decide on a time and date at the next Board Meeting.
- **Potential locations for flagship project:** The Board discussed various locations for the flagship project and agreed that they need to consult with the local Grazings Committee to get an idea of what may be available.
- **Formally invite Sharon to participate:** Flora will email Sharon to formally invite her to participate in Trust discussions when she is available and able to.
- **Xmas party:** Jimina informed the Board that Jordan has booked the Old School for December 1st. Clann An Latha An De has been notified and the Board agreed to make a donation directly to the Clann for their work. Alan will liaise with David Murdo regarding a potential tree for the Community Garden and Jordan will organise the lights. The Board discussed potential candidates for Santa Claus.
- **Old Folks Xmas party:** Jimina informed the Board that she consulted Roderick Morrison and that no Community Council meetings have been held since for them to discuss whether an Old Folks Xmas party is being held.
- **Annual Award for young person:** The Board agreed to progress this new annual award in early 2019. Alan mentioned that before the live date there would need to be some wording, criteria and an application form created before publishing it.
- **Director vacancies:** A couple of residents have been approached regarding becoming directors. There is some interest and we hope to hear back from them.
- **Bank accounts:** Alan informed the Board that applications for new bank accounts are underway. A couple of the application forms were ready to be signed by signatories at the end of the meeting.
- **Upgrade to Shop/Café:** Jimina suggested that the Shop/Café area could be turned into a Youth Café/Youth Space where children and teenagers in the community can socialise under minimal supervision by an adult or an adult and the older children. Lesley Wiseman will be taking a closer look at the layout and make some suggestions for upgrades once she comes back from holiday.
- **Turbine:** Alan informed the Board about his meeting with the Insurance Engineering Adjuster for Vericclaim on behalf of Bruce Stevenson Renewables. All the information they require has now been provided for the first claim up until the STATCOM was repaired. There will then be a second claim for the downtime and curtailment we have experienced between the STATCOM acting up again and when SSE have finished their works. Alan mentioned that Community Energy Scotland/Community Power Outer Hebrides have formally emailed SSE to request more information regarding the proposed works. So far Horshader has not been provided with the proposed works in writing, despite repeatedly requesting it.

- **Memorial bench:** Alan updated the Board on the memorial bench for Kathleen Macleod. Concrete and timber works are underway and the bench will be ready to install soon. Any floral decoration will be in place next growing season.
- **Newsletter name:** Jimina updated the Board on the name for the newsletter closing date. Jordan will email the school to ask for the result.
- **Coffee machine:** Alan updated the Board on the coffee machine, which is now installed and operational in the HCD office. Angie Matheson did the work and he also serviced the oil boiler and did some work on the Grinnibhat polycrubs toilet while he was over.
- **Jim Lister:** Alan informed the Board that Jordan has sent the Harris Gin gift set to Jim Lister.
- **Office Clean-up:** Alan confirmed that the offices had been given a general tidy and organisation.
- **Scrap cars in the community:** Alan provided the Board with information on the car scrap schemes which are currently running. Information on Cartakeback and Rewarding Recycling is available under 'End of Life Vehicle Recycling' on the Comhairle's website. In general, if you live outside of 30 miles as the crow flies from Lava's or Bennadrove, uplift of scrap cars is free.
- **CIB:** Alan will ask CIB if it is possible to have the monthly management accounts by the start of the last week in the month in order to have them for a Board Meeting on the Thursday of that week.
- **Windbreak Project:** The Board discussed having a short 15min presentation from Dr Mark Bradley to brief them on the Windbreak Project.

Other business

- **Hebridean Ark Project:** Alan updated the Board on some recent publicity the project has received. A film crew from the BBC Landward TV show came to Raebhat House to hear more about the project and film an interview with David Murdo. There has also been an article published in Geographical magazine about the project. Alan informed the Board that this recent attention has highlighted some aspects of the project that need to be revisited and some decisions need to be made regarding budget, funding, community support and scale going forward. Alan very briefly summarised the origins of the project to the Board. The Board confirmed that they would like to continue supporting the project and that they will request that David Murdo join them during part of the next Board Meeting for a briefing and to discuss the project going forward.
- **Polycrub Allotments:** Alan informed the Board of the current overall status of allotment availability at the Grinnibhat polycrubs. There are several allotments available, including one whole tunnel that can potentially be rented. There is some interest in these allotments well outside of the Horshader area. Jimina commented that it would be a good thing to see all the allotments rented out if there are no takers within the area. Flora and Domhnall both would like to see the allotments rented within the area and to hopefully generate more interest initially within the area before renting outside. Flora added that current allotment holders should also be offered to rent available allotments should they need more space, before going outside the area. Flora asked that allotments in general need to be revisited as there are some issues with allotments being neglected, and that unused allotments should be made available to rent by anyone else interested in them for the next growing season. Alan asked Domhnall if his sister Annetta would like to continue renting her allotment. Domhnall responded that Annetta is building her own polycrub, so she would not need to continue as an allotment holder. Alan added that himself and his brother might be interested in renting the available tunnel, or part of it and asked if this would be acceptable. The Board said it would be fine. Everyone agreed that we need to re-visit the entire arrangement with our polycrub allotments.
- **Shawbost School Gardening Club – New potato plot for 2018 growing season:** Alan joined David Murdo recently at the Grinnibhat polycrubs for an update. Alan suggested that

the large outdoor bed could be a potentially good growing area for the school pupils for the next growing season. David Murdo thought it was an excellent idea. Alan asked the Board if they would be okay with this idea, to which they responded yes. This bed will be considered for next year's potato plot.

- **Winter Fuels 2018:** Alan had emailed Flora and Mary earlier in the week to ask for some assistance in identifying 4-5 households who had not responded to the Winter Fuels 2018 form posted out. Mary commented that unless it is somebody who seems like they obviously forgot to send their form in, Horshader can't go chasing up households for their forms beyond the deadline, which has already passed. Alan said almost everybody had now responded and asked if the fuel delivery can now be put in motion. The Board agreed. Regarding delivery of food vouchers, Alan pointed out that there have been some past instances of food vouchers not making it to their recipients and that we may need to send all food vouchers out recorded delivery so that we have some record of them having been signed for and received. Alan provided the example of certain households where a food voucher may be hand delivered to one person in the household, but another householder may be unaware of it and notify Horshader of a non-delivery of their voucher. Signed For deliveries, as a record, will hopefully remedy this. Alan asked if the Board wished to backdate instances where somebody claimed they did not receive their voucher. The Board responded that they do not wish to do this.
- **Loom applications and servicing:** Alan updated the Board of the applicants and that loom applications are now closed. We have been unable to get the loom serviced by Iain Mackay in Bragar so far. Flora said she will contact DJ Macleod in Tolsta Chaolais, who will hopefully be able to do a service. The Board suggested, given his knowledge of weaving, that Domhnall should liaise with Alan to go over the past process and terms attached to the loom e.g. training, financing, etc and then proceed to interview the eligible applicants.
- **Shop/Café shelving:** Alan asked the Board if they are okay with the shelving from the Shop/Café being used in the big shed so that Don, David Murdo and John have more storage and can organise tools and supplies better. The Board agreed to this.
- **Contribution to Old School Fireworks Display 2018:** The Board agreed to continued contribution of £300 towards the fireworks.
- **Community Power Outer Hebrides (CPOH) membership:** The Board agreed to continue membership with CPOH at £2000 annually. Alan briefed the Board on the advantages of remaining a member and that Horshader has been a member along with the other community turbine trusts on the islands.
- **30MW Combined Community Turbine:** Alan very briefly summarised the outline of this proposed potential project that Kathleen Macdonald (Community Energy Scotland) informed him about. The Board agreed that at the moment they would like to concentrate on our own turbine, given the on-going issues we are having with it. Alan will remain in touch with Kathleen regarding updates on this bigger combined project.
- **Signatures for new bank accounts:** New bank accounts application forms were signed by Flora and Mary as per our current signatories for the other HCD bank accounts we currently have. Alan is also a signatory on these accounts, as previously agreed, for operational convenience e.g. online banking, paperwork, operational expenditure, etc.

Next meeting: Thursday 29 November 2018, 7.00pm, Raebhat House.

The Board of the Horshader Community Development Trust