

Minutes of the HCDT Board Meeting on 21 November 2019

Present: Flora MacLeod; Domhnall MacLeod; Mairi MacLean; Alisdair Wiseman; Jimina MacLeod; and Euan Macleod (Development Manager).

Venue: Raebhat House

○ **Funding Applications:**

- * Shawbost Gardening Club have been awarded match funding for their project. The project can now go ahead with HCD contributing the remainder of the funding (£1,500).
- * Lewis & Harris Youth Pipe Band application towards costs of a project aiming to bring Drumming tuition to the islands' schools was approved in part. The total amount requested is £10k for a 3-year project. HCD will offer 1/3 of the total costs for year-1 of the project, and are open to applications for the 2nd and 3rd project years.

○ **Recruitment:**

- * The process for the Projects Manager position will be started as soon as possible, with a view to this position commencing in early 2020.

○ **Building Control and Community Space**

- * Building Control have asked for a number of issues to be resolved before the warrant can be approved. Malcolm Crate will arrange to meet with Donald Thompson (CNES Planning Officer) to discuss the issues. HCD have been advised that the Community Space refurbishment works comply with standards.
- * The contract with Ecolab will be reviewed, while other providers of building pest control will be investigated, preferably with a base on the island.
- * Northern Security Alarms visited to check the faults on the fire alarm system at the front entrance to Raebhat House. This system was installed around 2015/6 when the shop and cafe opened but was not maintained. Northern Security Alarms recommended installing a new box costing £1200, without which an assessment cannot be made on any additional faults in the system. The Board agreed to proceed with the recommended approach.

○ **Bursary Rules** The Bursary Rules Working Paper was reviewed by the Trustees. A section on dependancies will be added and the document will then be presented for final approval.

○ **Tree Ark Working Group:** Although the Tree Ark project plan is not complete as had been anticipated, some progress has been made. A Working Group for the project has not been set up as some critical aspects of the initial project work remains unfinished.

○ **Westside Coastal Walk Upgrade:** Jordan will assume responsibility for the project, which will be completed by Spring 2020. Notifying letters will be sent to all Dalbeg residents informing them of the plans, which involve repair works to the bridge at Dalbeg.

○ **Westside Art Show:** The Board agreed the proposed Westside Art Show, calling local artists to showcase their work, should be developed. The event would launch in March 2020.

○ **Margaret Ferguson Paintings:** The Margaret Ferguson paintings will be exhibited at Raebhat House once Iain Murray's paintings have been taken down. Events relating to the work (Iolaire 100) will be planned for January 2020.

○ **Urras Dualchais Shiaboist:** It was agreed that HCD would not take over responsibility for the old Church, now owned by UDS.

○ **Christmas Craft Fair:** The Board asked Euan to look into arranging a Christmas Craft Fair in December. It was acknowledged that there may not be sufficient time to arrange this event but any plan could be used in 2020.

○ **AOB:**

- * HCD will make a donation of £250 to Alisdair Allan's Christmas Card scheme.

- * Jimina will discuss sponsorship opportunities with representatives of Western Thistle Football Club. The junior club currently have no standard training kit.
- * HCD will renew membership to Community Power Outer Hebrides for 2020, this will cost £2000.
- * HCD events will be listed on the Galson Estate calendar of events for the Wider Westside area.
- * The Winter Fuel Scheme will be increased to the value of £150 per household.
- * A short note will be sent to Pamela Harvey to thank her for assisting with the turbine problems.
- * Alisdair shared a Proposal for a Horshader Forest Project which Directors and staff will review. The Board agreed to develop the proposal.

Next meeting: 16th December 2.30pm

The Board of the Horshader Community Development Trust