

## Minutes of the HCDT Board Meeting on 17 August 2022

**Present:** Carole Miller, Fiona Jefferson, Jimina Macleod, Donald Murray, Flora Macleod, Euan MacLeod (Development Manager).

**Venue:** Raebhat House, North Shawbost, HS2 9BD

### ○ Preliminaries

- Carole Miller was re-appointed as Chair.
- The minutes of the June board meeting were approved. The minutes of the May board meeting will be reviewed.
- Minutes of recent, and future, meetings will be put to the village noticeboards. We will assess the condition of the noticeboards and work with the grazings committees to make repairs where needed.

### ○ Governance

- All directors completed, or updated, their disclosure of interest forms. This info will be added to the Trust Register of Interests.
- The Governing Document is being updated by Carole, supported by Donna (Office Manager). The updated document will include the byelaws adopted at recent AGMs.
- A complaint by Innes Harrison was received. The complaint is copied at the bottom of these minutes. While not all current directors were involved in the situation, there was general agreement that Innes had been informed of his removal as an elected director, and appointment as an associate director. Furthermore, Innes Harrison's appointment as an associate director is detailed in the 2021 Annual Accounts – a document which was approved by the board (while Innes was serving as an elected director), and thereafter accepted by the members at the AGM of May 2022.
- Two anonymous complaints were received. The complaints are copied at the bottom of these minutes. The directors are satisfied that the issues raised were dealt with at previous board meetings and do not require further investigation. Any communication of this kind should be sent to the Raebhat House office, or to the [admin@horshader.com](mailto:admin@horshader.com) email.

### ○ Reports and Updates:

- A membership application by Norman Smith was approved.
- The bursary rules were discussed. The current terms and conditions will be updated to make eligibility for awards consistent with eligibility for ordinary membership – i.e. open to those living, or with a formal sub-let of a croft, in the Horshader area.
- The UK CRF funded budget for bursaries will be used to make awards to applicants living outwith the Horshader area. As the UK CRF funding ends in December 2022, there is no guarantee awards to applicants living outwith the Horshader area will be made in future.
- Bursary awards were made to Alisdair Wiseman (£2,000), Angela Macleod (£2,000), Chloe Gardner (£2,000), and Ruairidh MacIennan (£2,000). Further awards were made to Tanya Mackay (£1,000), Natalie Mackay (£1,000), Jayne Gillies (£1,000), Anna Macaulay (£1,000), Karis Macaulay (£1,000).
- Applications to the HCD Community Fund by Stress Monkey CIC, and An Taigh Ceilidh CIC were received. As the application by An Taigh Ceilidh CIC was received on the day of the meeting, a decision will be made at a future meeting. No award will be made to Stress Monkey CIC at this time, however the use of the community space will be offered, as a way to trial the project (health and wellbeing events).
- As part of an ongoing review of systems and management, staff rewards were discussed. The staff Annual Leave Planner can be viewed through the shared drive, along with info on the organisational structure and wages, financial info (bank statements, management accounts), etc.

○ **Projects/Finance/Budgets:**

- \* A budget meeting will take place on 24 August. The latest management accounts, which cover to the end of May, were reviewed.
- \* Progress of the Slàn san Dachaigh project was discussed. Project events are popular and well attended, and the prescription deliveries continue. Research into the use of equipment purchased with support from the Healthy Islands Fund, and the development of the photography exhibition, is on-going.
- \* The board discussed planning for the future, including the review of wages and staff structure, and the development plan. Creating additional income streams be a focus for the organisation. Additionally, appropriate ways of investing Trust reserves will be explored.
- \* Decisions on significant items of expenditure will be made after the budget is agreed.
- \* The Revive project was discussed as the initial trial period continues. The project will be reviewed by the board.

○ **PR Update:**

- \* HCD was mentioned in the Events paper for June mentioning the commissioning of music and the times of the session. We will review the existing Communications Plan. The latest newsletter will be published, now that the board is in place.

○ **AOCB:**

- \* The board would like to encourage more youth involvement. The establishment of a youth committee will be investigated. A budget could be provided to enable members to plan events and activities – e.g. youth clubs.
- \* The Project Evaluation Group will be resintated if there is sufficient interest from the membership. This would enable those that are unable to stand as directors to participate in project planning and decision making.
- \* We agreed to establish a project team to research the future of the community wind turbine, including the possibility of replacing the turbine, or developing a new renewable project.

**Next meeting:** Budget Meeting 7.15PM 24 August 2022. The meeting will be held at Raebhat House.

The Board of the Horshader Community Development Trust

## Complaint by Innes Harrison

### Formal Complaint against Horshader Development Management

Dear Board of Directors,

I am lodging a formal complaint about how I was portrayed as being an Associate Director within Horshader Community Trust. And, how I was resigned without knowledge when supposedly being a director. (June 2021)

This is based on the MOMs from the 2021 AGM, whereby I am mentioned as an Associate Director.

Firstly. I was apparently Resigned from Horshader Trust as a Director without my knowledge in June 2021 prior to that months Directors meeting. It should be noted that I was never informed of this action and only found out that I had apparently resigned when looking under myself online in Companies House and reading it.

Secondly. In the 2021 AGM MOMs sent for approval, its shows that I am supposedly then an ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR. I was never invited to become an Associate Director as the AGM MOMs from that meeting stated. If people read the monthly Directors meeting MOMs, (June & July) they will neither see that I was resigned without my knowledge, nor will they see any invitation for me to become an associate director.

2021 AGM minutes of meeting should be changed to show the above points also, as when at that meeting I was purely a member.

Actually on the 03/11/2021 ( First meeting after AGM 2021 ) Development manager was asked to change the 2021 AGM Minutes as they were not Correct in the statement / representation which was based around Mr Wiseman, as he named Himself as the Director involved in the amendment of the Bursary Rules including Approval prior to it being able to be proposed and voted on by the members.

It is a problematic management issue when they decide to write to companies' house and resign Directors without their knowledge, as is stating that someone is an associate director when the recorded MOMs do not show any invitation to become one or appoint one.

This is very alarming knowing that someone decides to perform these actions without discussion or approval from Directors, and without written resignations. It shows that within the management at that time (2021) in Horshader there was some serious wrongdoings and as such I hope that it will both be addressed and highlighted to the members.

Yours

Innes Harrison

19/07/2022

## Anonymous Complaint 1

### Complaint over what Quorate Means.

Dear Horshader Board.

I wish to raise a complaint that should be aired by MOMs, on what quorate actually means.

At a stage in time, 30 June 2020 it seems that being Quorate was simple, in the fact that shown on the MOMS additional Directors were welcomed to the Board, as you had recently had 2 resignations.

Below is taken from Horshader Online Minutes.

*“Welcome to Ranald Fraser: Flora offered Ranald a warm welcome to the Board. Following the resignation of 2 Directors a little over a week ago, Flora invited Ranald to join the Board as an Associate Director to enable the Board to once again become quorate and continue to manage the affairs of the Trust. The Governing Document of the Trust permits the Board to invite someone with appropriate expertise to join the Board in this capacity at any time during the year. Ranald will step down at the next General Meeting of the Trust, whenever that might take place, although, with his agreement, he might be invited to be reappointed.”*

The statement on being quorate seems inappropriate as it also states in the Governing Document that Directors are elected and appointed at AGMs. This was not an AGM although it added to the then boards quantity of Directors, it does not allow being quorate, as below from Governance Document.

2.03 About Associates Associates are individuals, charitable bodies or commercial organisations that wish to be associated with, and can bring benefit to, the Trust. Associates are admitted by the Board. They can only become Members of the Trust if they satisfy the eligibility criteria laid out elsewhere. They can attend AGMs but cannot vote and they are not eligible to become Directors of the Trust.

Yours

Trust Member

## Anonymous Complaint 2

### Complaint about Bridge in Dalbeg.

Dear Board at Horshader Trust.

Again, I wish to complain about the Bridge that was installed in Dalbeg during 2020.

It was and remains wrong as below. The trust has a duty to properly investigate this and respond to its members. Based on below facts.

The west Lewis walkway as indicated below, has and always was on Common grazing. The Bridge serves no purpose other than giving free access to A Wisemans croft. All at expense of Trust members, who were never approached for approval or given a vote on whether they should adopt this and change the route to a more dangerous route that takes people into the areas around cliffs and terrain unsuitable for the walk.



Mr Wiseman has made it clear that he was the one that suggested it based on items of unquantified value.

Indeed, he mentions the route of the correct walkway which is indeed over common grazing, and it is shown on WalkHighlands very clearly.

In the Minutes of Board Meetings there is never any mention of this being put to a vote or even a reason why he should benefit from the walkway being modified. However, in response to people's complaints he attempts to turn it into a situation that it is a responsibility of the Trust to supply a bridge based on his own feelings. Did Mr Wiseman consult with Members or even WalkHighlands, Common Grazing's Committee or even the crofters commission or any other body to assess this so-called requirement.

In August 2020 it is in the Monthly meeting that:

The works on both bridges have now been completed (19/08/20). Works on replacing the waymarkers and stiles started on 24/08/20 and is due to be completed before the community walk.

The complaints were never fully explained to Trust members and no mention or copy of complaint letter has ever been published on Horshader MOMs, unlike others in recent times.

Based on this I would suggest that Mr Wisemans has his Trust Membership Revoked.

Yours

Trust Member