

Urras Oighreachd Chàrlabhaigh
CARLOWAY ESTATE TRUST
Minute of Board Meeting
Wednesday 29th September 2021, 7.30 pm
Breasclete Community Centre

Present: Jacqueline Ferguson, Neil Macarthur, Alex A. Macdonald, Murdo N Maciver, Kenny John MacIennan, Derek Macleod, Dòmhnall Macleòid Iain D. Macleod, Iain N. Macleod

In attendance: Sally Reynolds

The Chairman began by welcoming everyone to the first in-person meeting since February 2019 and was delighted at the turnout. He also wished to record, on behalf of the Trust, sincere condolences to the Maclean family. Also, condolences to the family of Joan Macaulay of Bernera.

1. **Apologies:** K. Maclean
2. **Declaration of interest:** none at present
3. **Minutes of previous meeting:** Approved by D. Macleòid, seconded A Macdonald.
4. **Matters arising:**

Funding bid: The Chairman reiterated the good news about the Funding bid, although it remained embargoed until the end of October. We now have the authority to progress matters with the Board of the visitor centre and solicitors. The VAT query has been referred to the other party's accountants. There was also confirmation from the funders that there is no requirement to advertise the post.

Gunnera: Spraying now underway. Costs are being shared with Dalmore Estates.

Goose Scheme: NFU announced that this was no longer being funded, although no official word from NAtureScot. Negotiations are ongoing with Scottish Government and other agencies.

Peatlands: CLOH had organised a seminar about Carbon Credits. SR has circulated details to members.

The restoration scheme at Loch Fasgro was now underway. Members encouraged to visit site.

5. **Finance:** Balance noted. Bank account signatories have now been amended, and Trust can now open a linked account for grant funding.
6. **AGM and Director Elections:** Notes from Comms meeting circulated with suggestions on timetable and arrangements for AGM. All agreed with suggestions.

AGM papers to go out in the next 2 weeks. 5 directors to stand down, 2 are not standing again, so total of 7 spaces can be filled.

7. **Review of policies:** GDPR and Whistle-blower policies to be reviewed. SR will email documents for review to give reading time before October meeting.
8. **Staffing:** Advice received to approach Scottish Government's Island Team regarding funding for LDO post instead of HIE. SR will make an initial contact for further information.

9. **AOB:**
SR updated board on CLOH. She has stepped away due to conflict of interest with SLC. New chair had now taken over. UOC would still be in contact with the group via the network meetings.

Offshore Wind: There was significant interest in the West of Lewis and a successful bidder could offer community benefits. The WestSide group has designed a prospectus to promote community benefits. If the bid for Crown Estate funding then this could link in with the offshore wind project.

AM asked about a weak section of the Power network in the Carloway area. To be reported to Community Energy Scotland.

Concerns raised regarding mess made at the other side of Loch Fasgro where water is being pumped from Loch Clisam Creag. Scottish Water said they would email when reinstatement is complete. SR and NM agreed to visit site and ensure hurdles are in place.

Thanks received from Lisa Maclean, formerly at Galson Estate for the card and gift.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 27th October 2021 via Zoom.