

Urras Oighreachd Chàrlabhaigh

CARLOWAY ESTATE TRUST

Zoom Meeting at 7.30pm

Date: 29th July 2020

Present: Jacqueline Ferguson, Neil J. Macarthur, Alex A. MacDonald, Kenny John MacLennan, Derek MacLeod, Dòmhnall MacIèoid, with Donald MacKinnon and Sally Reynolds.

1. Apologies: Murdo N. Maciver, Karen Maclean, Iain D. MacLeod.

The chair thanked everyone for attending via Zoom once again. A special welcome to Donald for joining us for the meeting to report on the Community Workshop feasibility study.

2. Declaration of Interest – none

3. Minutes 24th June 2020 were approved by Dòmhnall MacIèoid, seconded by Neil J. Macarthur

4. Matters Arising:

4.1 EE Mast – Sally Reynolds advised that the negotiations are now complete, and an agreement is in place: the next step will be a site meeting between all relevant parties.

4.2 Goose Scheme – No further information

4.3 Gunnera – SNH had approved funding of at least £500. Contractors would be starting spraying in August for 4 days. The relevant Grazings Clerks had been involved in the organisation. Sally Reynolds advised that £1000 had been allocated for this project.

4.4 Renewables – No further information at this time, but it was felt important that this subject be kept on the agenda.

4.5 Callanish Visitor Centre – It was noted that a successful online celebration of their 25-year anniversary had taken place.

4.6 Noreen Macdonald Retirement -The Chair advised that a letter of appreciation had been sent to Noreen and hoped we would be able to celebrate her contribution more appropriately when circumstances allowed.

5. Correspondence – newsletters and Covid 19 press releases had been emailed.

6. Covid-19 – listening to the Scottish Government guidelines, Sally confirmed the estate office would remain with the current set up of staff working from home until a further review. No change yet, and none expected until the schools return. BBQ packs had been successfully distributed in the Breasclete area and had been much appreciated.

7. Finance – The figures for the first quarter of 2020 were distributed to all directors; balance remains healthy and accounts should be ready in August / September, when the accountant will hopefully attend the meeting. The Covid-19 grant showed an underspend and the remaining balance was likely to be returned if that remained the case.

8. Strategic Plan – the following items were highlighted:

8.1 Angling – the river is open; ticket sales are rising, and salmon have been caught. The draft feasibility study and visit from the fisheries expert have both been delayed due to Covid-19.

8.2 Broch – UTC had advised that they are not planning to open the Broch Visitor Centre and Toilets in 2020. This was due to the costs and logistics of social distancing and cleaning as per the current public health guidelines. The Comhairle, as part of a response to complaints regarding dumping of waste across the Outer Hebrides, had asked for an update on current facilities being offered in each area. A joint response has been submitted to CnES on behalf of UOC and UTC; Sally to discuss any changes or follow up to this with UTC.

There had been no further update from Historic and Environment Scotland regarding the ongoing repairs to the Broch.

9. Monthly Reports distributed

9.1 Development Manager – Sally agreed to produce an action plan with targets to be presented at the next meeting.

9.2 Local Development Officer – Funding had not been received for a feasibility study on the potential purchase of the Community Workshop in Breasclete, so this had been carried out by Donald and Sally. This report had been circulated to the Board for review, and a decision on whether to move forward with the proposal was required. After some debate, the proposal was approved by a majority, but the objections of Alex Macdonald and Derek Macleod were noted.

9.3 Peatland ACTION Project Officer – Ben had now been able to resume fieldwork and provided full details of ongoing projects in his report.

10. AOCB –

10.1 - The Chair congratulated both Donald and Sally for their high standard of work in the workshop study.

10.2 AGM - The Chair said that arrangements for the next AGM would need to be considered, especially in terms of the current social distancing.

10.3 Dòmhnall MacIòid wished to note his congratulations to Kenny John MacIennan on his appointment as Deputy Lord Lieutenant. All present agreed with this sentiment.

**Date of next Zoom Meeting
August 26th at 7.30**

September 30 (B) October 28 (C) November 25 (B)