



**MEETING OF THE WESTERN ISLES DEVELOPMENT TRUST
(COMPANY NUMBER SC271462)**

Minutes of Meeting of Western Isles Development Trust Date & Time:
5pm, Thursday 29 April 2021.

Venue: Remotely by Microsoft Teams only.

PRESENT

Nominated Members

Norman A. MacDonald (Director and Nominated Member) Chair
Sheena Stewart (Director and Nominated Member)
David Muir (Director and Nominated Member)
Fiona Stokes (Director and Nominated Member)
David Wake (Director and Nominated Member)
Norman MacDonald (Director and Nominated Member)
Catriona Murray (Director and Nominated Member)
Iain Archie MacNeil (Director and Nominated Member)

Elected Members

Donnie Morrison (Elected Director for Lewis and Ordinary Member) (Vice Chair)
Hazel Mitchell (Elected Director for Lewis and Ordinary Member)
John Mitchell (Elected Director for Harris and Ordinary Member)
Calum MacKay (Elected Director for Harris and Ordinary Member)
Anne Bird (Elected Director for Uist and Ordinary Member)
Betty McAtear (Elected Director for Barra & Vatersay and Ordinary Member)
Katie Denehy (Elected Director for Barra & Vatersay and Ordinary Member)

APOLOGIES

John MacKay (Director and Nominated Member)
Iain Maciver (Director and Nominated Member)
Stewart Wilson (Director and Nominated Member)
Kirsty MacCormick (Elected Director for Uist and Ordinary Member)

IN ATTENDANCE

Allan MacDonald.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The meeting was quorate. New directors were thanked for becoming involved and welcomed to the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2021

The Minutes were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising.

4. MAIN FUND EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

- i. **Community Energy Scotland: 'Uist Local Energy Plan'.**

Norman MacDonald (Chair) and Iain Archie MacNeil both declared an interest and left the meeting during consideration of this item.

- **Community Energy Scotland to be invited to submit a full application (to include an explanation as to why the grant amount should be slightly more than the standard maximum).**
- ii. **NUDC Enquiry Form: 'Àrainneachd Àlainn' Community Hub and Environment Centre'**
 - **NUDC to be invited to submit a full application (with the recommendation the applicant reconsiders the sum requested given that it was significantly greater than the standard maximum and, should it follow that recommendation, an explanation as to where the balance of the funds is to be obtained).**

5. MAIN FUND APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING

No applications received.

6. SMALL PROJECTS APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING:

- i. Islands Book Trust: 'Berneraay: Voices of the Hebrides' (£2,000.00)

Sheena Stewart declared an interest and left the meeting during consideration of this item. Donnie Morrison advised that he was previously involved with the group but as that was no longer the case he did not have an interest to declare.

- **Application for £2,000.00 successful.**

- ii. Buth Bharraigh: 'Youth Café' (£2,000.00)

Katie Denehy declared an interest and left the meeting during consideration of this item.

- **The Board felt that more information was needed as to the identity of the applicant. The applicant is to be given the opportunity to provide more information for the next meeting. The grant sum is to be held pending reconsideration (if the information is forthcoming in time for the next meeting).**

- iii. Barra Watersports Club: 'Barra Watersports Club' (£2,000.00)

- **Application for £2,000.00 successful.**

7. CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION

- **Report was noted.**
- **Donnie Morrison and Fiona Stokes to be registered as signatories for the RBS bank account.**

8. STANDING ITEM - WEBSITE UPDATE / OPPORTUNITY FOR SUBGROUP TO UPDATE THE BOARD.

- **New website to be launched on Monday 10 May 2021 with Press Release advising of the appointment of the new directors (in order that it does not take place during the pre-election period given that one of the new directors is a candidate).**

9. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

- **Report noted. New directors were welcomed at the commencement of the meeting.**

10. LETTER FROM NUDC TRADING DATED 28 APRIL 2021

The letter from NUDC Trading Limited (requesting the loan balance be converted to a grant and waived) was discussed. Anne Bird advised that she had a minor interest in the Company but it was not sufficient to require her to leave the meeting.

- **Board was not currently able to agree to the request.**
- **The following information was to be sought from the Company and the matter revisited once that information was received:**
 - **Further information on the bank fraud suffered by the Company, particularly whether there was culpability on the part of the Company.**
 - **Company to explain what hardship would be caused if the amount were retained as a loan.**
 - **Company to set out its financial position.**
 - **Explanation as to why the Company cannot use income from the wind farm to pay off the loan during the loan period.**

11. OSCR EMAIL

The email from OSCR (advising of a risk assessment which had been carried out) was discussed. It was noted that no further information was required from WIDT however a copy of 'OSCR' Guidance and Good Practice for Charity Trustees document was circulated. The email also stated the following:

- i. all information displayed on the charity website should be kept up to date; and
- ii. any business of the charity should be communicated through the appropriate channels (for example the use of appropriate email addresses).

Further information has been requested from OSCR on point (ii).

- **OSCR to be advised that the new website is to be launched in early course.**

12. AOCB

A director asked the Chair why WIDT funds were not directed at funding salaries as that would be of benefit to the economy of the islands. The Chair stated that at times revenue costs were supported but in general WIDT had a preference for supporting capital costs as that was more beneficial in extending the impact of WIDT funds across its geographical area. If the Company supported the same revenue costs every year this would reduce the support that could be given to new projects. Furthermore there were other funders who were better placed to support revenue costs.

13. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

- **Thursday 27 May 2021 at 5pm using Microsoft Teams.**

END.