

*Going Forward
Together*



STÒRAS UIBHIST

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Ref:	
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Re: Details of Stòras Uibhist Board Meeting of 6/9/07

The Board members of Stòras Uibhist are committed to open and transparent management of the community company. To this end the Board agreed that details of discussions at board meetings should be available to the community, excluding commercially sensitive information.

Attached is the first board report and your feedback and comments would be appreciated. In the first instance please contact our Chief Executive, Huw Francis, or any board member if preferred.

Yours faithfully,

Angus MacMillan
Chairman, Stòras Uibhist

Report of Stòras Uibhist Board Meeting of September 6th, 2007-10-03

Agenda No.	Agenda Heading	Record of Proceedings
1	Minutes of previous board meeting	The minutes of the previous board meeting were approved unanimously by the board and copies filed at the company's registered office and the general office. It was further agreed that the Chief Executive would develop a format for the non-confidential information of future board meetings to be publicly released.
2	Extraordinary resolution.	The Memoranda and Articles governing the constitution and management of the company require that the board of directors formally approve any resignation of board members. Following the resignation of Hamish Fraser and David Buckland as directors earlier this year the board unanimously passed a resolution confirming their resignation. The Chief Executive was also tasked with confirming the situation in regards to the subsidiary companies that were bought along with South Uist Estates Ltd.
3	Action Sheet	The actions from the previous meeting were agreed and checked for progress.
4	Project Updates	<p><u>Askernish Golf Course</u> Following the meeting between Stòras Uibhist and the Askernish Common Grazing Shareholders on 8/8/07 a sub-committee was established consisting of three representatives of Stòras Uibhist (Angus MacMillan, John MacMillan, Huw Francis) and three representatives from among the shareholders (William MacDonald, Angus Campbell, Angus Johnstone). The committee was to address ongoing issues of management relating to use of the Askernish machair for both grazing and golf and two meetings have been held so far, with some progress being made to address the concerns of some of the shareholders.</p> <p><u>Drainage/Coastal Protection</u> CnES are planning ongoing work in the Stòras Uibhist area and the board asked the Chief Executive to investigate further the implications and responsibilities of such work being carried out on Estate land.</p> <p><u>Estate Fishing</u> The board noted the good levels of fishing revenue and agreed that central management of the booking system for fishing permits was necessary and tasked the Chief Executive with establishing such a system.</p> <p><u>Grogarry Lodge Maintenance, General & Marketing Marketing</u> - The board requested that the Chief Executive have a marketing plan in place and begun marketing for the 2008 season before the next board meeting.</p> <p><u>Shooting & stalking</u> – To manage and record issues with geese and deer the Chief Executive has set up a reporting system to facilitate analysis of the problem so improvements can be made to the management of wildlife where possible.</p> <p>-</p>

		<p><u>Housing</u> Community Scotland has previously indicated that they do not regard the Estate area as being a priority for new housing. Board members have met with Scottish Government representative to address this issue and tasked the Chief Executive with determining how housing need could be demonstrated in future discussions with Community Scotland.</p> <p><u>Lochboisdale Port of Entry</u> The Board agreed that Stòras Uibhist should lead on this project and work with partner organisations to ensure the development was in line with community needs and expectations. The Chief Executive will take this forward and report progress to the board on an ongoing basis.</p> <p><u>Renewable Energy</u> Various options are available to Stòras Uibhist to develop renewable energy projects and approaches have been made to Stòras Uibhist by private companies to operate wind farms on Estate land independently and in conjunction with Stòras Uibhist. The Chief Executive will investigate all options and report to the board on the most suitable/viable projects.</p>
5	Reports	<p><u>Administration</u> Moira MacPherson had generously provided her time to Stòras Uibhist to assist with setting up the administrative and personnel aspects of Stòras Uibhist. With the appointment of the Chief Executive Ms MacPherson has handed over the work and the board agreed to send a formal thank you to her for her contribution.</p> <p><u>Crofting</u> There are a number of ongoing issues relating to crofting where the Estate is in disagreement with the Crofters Commission and the Board asked the Chief Executive to work to resolve these issues as soon as possible.</p> <p>The Board also agreed the wording of the Stòras Uibhist submission to the Shucksmith Inquiry into Crofting calling for greater delegation of powers from the Scottish Government to Community Landlords to manage economic and social regeneration projects.</p> <p><u>Financial Statement</u> Restructuring of the accounting processes is continuing to take into consideration the changed status of the company now it is a community company. Implementation of the new accounts systems is progressing and analysis of income versus expenditure is continuing to ensure the financial stability of the company.</p>
6	Diary – Executive Powers	The Board noted that the Executive Powers assumed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman in the absence of a

		Chief Executive have now been relinquished following the appointment of Huw Francis and his taking up of the post on August 20 th , 2007.
7	Chief Executive – Priority List	Following a request from the Chairman of the Board, the Chief Executive submitted a priority list of tasks to be addressed. The list was: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Staff Vacancies • Estate Management • Renewable Energy Projects • Quarries, Fish Farms and other commercial arrangements. • Crofting • Communication and Community Involvement • Major Development Projects
8	Development Posts	The Board is concerned with the lack of progress in appointing staff to these vacancies. The Chief Executive was tasked with investigating the potential for attracting a secondee from an external organisation. An amended job description was also approved for future use in attracting applications.
9	Quarry Leases	The Chief Executive submitted a report to the board on the current status of the commercial leases relating to quarries and the potential to develop these further. Following an advert in the press and approaches to existing operators the Chief Executive is currently reviewing all commercial arrangements and continuing discussions to maximise the benefit of the Estate assets for community benefit. Note was also made of continued removal of large quantities of sand and shingle from the foreshore, which is owned by Stòras Uibhist. Coastal erosion is an ongoing problem and the Board requested that the Chief Executive work to reduce the extraction of such sand and encourage use of material from licensed sites.
10	Fundraising	Continuing the efforts of the Board to raise the funding necessary for the buyout from private sources a dinner has been arranged at CelticPark. Partner organisations have been invited to buy tables and contribute to the fundraising effort. The board were asked to encourage participation in this event from colleagues and contacts they may have. All bookings are being taken through the Stòras Uibhist office at Bornish.
11	For noting and/or comment	Ten items of confidential correspondence and four items of commercially confidential company paperwork received by Stòras Uibhist that required board notification and/or comment were passed to each board member and the outcome noted in the full minutes.
12	Date of next meeting	A date of October 4 th , 2007 at 1630hrs in the Bornish Office of Stòras Uibhist for the next board meeting was agreed.