

Urras Oighreachd Chàrlabhaigh

CARLOWAY ESTATE TRUST

Zoom Meeting at 7.30pm

Date: 24th June 2020

Present: Jacqueline Ferguson, Neil J. Macarthur, Alex A. MacDonald, Noreen MacDonald, Murdo N. MacIver, Karen Maclean, Kenny John MacLennan, Derek MacLeod, Dòmhnall MacIèoid, with Ben Inglis-Grant, Donald MacKinnon and Sally Reynolds.

1. Apologies: Iain D. MacLeod.

The chair thanked everyone for attending and getting used to using Zoom. A special welcome to Ben and Donald for joining us for the whole meeting to see what happens at our board meetings.

The chair read out the letter from Noreen stating her wish to retire as Company Secretary, and thanked her on behalf of the board for her organisational and secretarial skills over the past nine years. **It was unanimously agreed** that Sally Reynolds be appointed Company Secretary of the trust, and Jacqueline Ferguson will be the Minute Secretary until the AGM in November. Our current book-keeper will take on responsibility for payments; Jaqueline Ferguson and Murdo N MacIver will become additional signatories for the trust, with the office estate address now officially transferred to Carloway Old School and the office telephone re-routed to Sally.

2. Declaration of Interest – none

3. Minutes 27th May 2020 were approved by Alex A MacDonald and seconded by Murdo N MacIver.

4. Matters Arising:

5. Correspondence – newsletters and Covid 19 press releases.

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 at Phase 3. Some food boxes have been distributed in the area and will be replaced for any required in the future. All directors should be mindful of any individual or family in need in our area and these people should be discretely directed to the availability of the emergency boxes.

7. Finance – update on the month of April distributed to all directors, lot of activity in May due to Covid, and some bills still not received, balance remains healthy and accounts should be ready in August, when the accountant will hopefully attend the meeting.

8. Strategic Plan – the following items were highlighted:

8.1 Angling – the river is now open, several season tickets sold and also available in the pop up shop. Kenny and Sally have a meeting scheduled with Community Enterprise on 29th June.

8.2 Goose scheme – SNH have been allocated a budget (although not yet confirmed) for the spring cull which may include a cull in August, if there is an underspend. Funding also allocated for another John Muir Award for P7 pupils, and same funding, awaiting approval.

8.3 Gunnera – Sally advised SNH are willing to provide funding, if match funded, and working jointly with North Harris Trust who use a combination of trained volunteers and contractors to eradicate gunnera. **It was agreed** that match funding should be provided; Sally to contact North Harris Trust to place an interest and investigate relative costs involved using a contractor.

8.4 Renewables – The chair gave an interview on BBC Radio Nan Gael earlier this month on the launch of ScotWind - the first offshore wind leasing round in Scotland – to state an interest in the area off Carloway. HIE have advised it is very early days, with the need to be careful of expectations as sites may not go ahead. It is understood that the turbines would not be seen from the Callanish Stones.

9. Monthly Reports distributed

9.1 Local Development Officer – Donald confirmed progress to date on the various projects, including the Breasclete workshop, for which Sally was asked to contact Anderson MacArthur for advice on whether a Community Asset Transfer or a negotiated sale would be the best option to consider, if required.

9.2 Peatland ACTION Project Officer - Ben advised there was not much action over the last few months due to risk assessments, but field work resumed on Friday. Ben provided full details of ongoing projects in his report.

9.3 Development Officer – Sally stated HIE were happy with the outcomes she achieved to date, and Sally will become the Development Manager in July when the expected outcomes will be slightly different to reflect the new position funded by HIE. Sally advised that the current Head of Strengthening Communities is retiring, and we will have a new account manager initially on an interim basis.

The chair thanked both Donald and Ben for their reports to the board which are of a very high standard and also thanked Sally for a very comprehensive report which could have been her last report, and hopefully we will have many more years with Sally in post. We will be sorry to see our HIE Account Manager retiring, who has been a huge help to the trust, but we are sure the new Account Manager will be a great help to us.

10. Any Other Competent Business

10.1 Dòmhnall MacIèoid wished to echo the sentiments at the start of the meeting, looking forward to thanking Noreen in the new world post-Covid. Also, thanks to our HIE Account Manager who has been involved in so many projects for Carloway over many years, it's good to recognise the work people have been doing behind the scenes.

10.2 Callanish Stones 25 Years – Sally advised speaking with the UNT Manager today who is due to return to work this week to look at risk assessment for opening the centre.

10.3 The chair thanked the staff, especially Sally, Ben and Donald working from home, all doing admirably well for the trust, although the chair finds it difficult being unable to pop into the office at any time, it's just not the same on screen.

The chair concluded the meeting by thanking Noreen for all the excellent work done with the Trust from the very first thoughts of a buyout in 2011 till the present. He wished Noreen a well-deserved and happy retirement, and that we will arrange a suitable farewell once lockdown restrictions allow.

Date of next Zoom Meeting

Wednesday 29th July at 7.30

August 26 © September 30 (B) October 28 (C) November 25 (B)