

Minute/Note of Meeting

TITLE : Urras Stòras An Rubha

DATE : 20 September 2021

TIME : 7.30 pm

VENUE : Via Zoom

Present: A Lamont (Chair); DM Macdonald (Vice Chair); CM Dunn (Secretary); N Mackenzie (Treasurer); M Bruce; GK Macdonald; H Macdonald; DJ Macsween; Z Stewart; Cllr N Macdonald; Cllr F Stewart; D Smith (TIG).

Apologies: E Chaplin; T Clark; J Dixon; S Macaulay; N Macleod; G Smith; Cllr A Macleod

Item		Summary and Action	Who?	When?
1	Minute of meeting of 15 June 2021	The minute of meeting of 16 August 2021 was approved, with one amendment: Item 7 –“ first VAT refund” to be changed to “latest VAT Refund”.	C Dunn	
2	Matters Arising	a) Croft acquisition: It was noted that there was no progress to report on the croft acquisition, and it was also noted that the croft tenant was seeking information, through solicitors, about the process undertaken when Comhairle nan Eilean Siar took over part of the croft as a car park for the school.	N Macleod	Ongoing
3	Declaration of Interests	None Declared.		
4	Aros An Rubha Building	Progress D Smith reported that the contractor was on programme with the redevelopment, with roofing due to be commenced this week. The flooring for the building has been selected by the Design Panel and the order placed with Carpet World Warehouse The following information on two additional issues raised at the meeting of 16 August was noted: • A quote has been received for tarring the car park, but funding has not yet been identified to carry out the work. • The blocked drain is within the curtilage of the site and a sub-contractor will be contacted directly to undertake the work. It was noted that the cashflow showed a fairly healthy balance at present, that it was working well and that there were no concerns. It was agreed that, to ensure continuing healthy cash-flow, it may be prudent to draw down the PST loan from CnES. A letter from Calum Macdonald, asking the board to give consideration to making some significant changes to the	D Smith	Immediate and ongoing
			A Lamont	Immediate

		plant room and café area of the development, had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting. The letter was noted and it was agreed that the building work was too far advanced to make any changes, and that the plans for the building conformed to all relevant legislation. It was agreed that the design team/contractor would be asked to give consideration to designing the stair to the mezzanine level of the café in such a way as to allow space for a wheelchair lift to be fitted when finance becomes available.	C Dunn/A Lamont	ate Site meeting on 22 September.
5	Energy Hub	CARES loan It was noted that final ratification of the loan element of the CARES funding was still awaited, and that there had been a recent request for the accounts to March 2021. N Mackenzie agreed to contact J Moffat for draft accounts, although these would not be finally agreed until the AGM. It was noted that the specification for the solar panels had been provided by Greenspace and that they were with the contractor for pricing. <u>Funding applications</u> It was noted that Alasdair Nicholson had made an excellent presentation to the final stage of the Centrica Energy for Tomorrow fund, but although the final decision had not yet been made, it looked as if the Urras bid had been beaten by a similar project in Cornwall, which was providing energy for a whole village. It was noted that the final decision on the Island Communities fund is currently with Scottish Ministers. This fund has been heavily subscribed and does not look promising.	N Mackenzie A Lamont	Immediate
6	Point Community Forum – sub-group	Development Officer post It was noted that there had been four applications for the Development Officer post, and that letting of the applications would be carried out by the interview panel.	Interview panel.	Immediate
7	Reports from constituent groups	The following were noted: Point and Sandwich Trust Point and Sandwich Trust are hosting a public meeting on Monday 27 September to allow community groups to contribute to the formulation of their new 5-year development plan. Urras Eaglais na h-Aoidhe The annual Colm Cille lecture will be held on Friday, 24 September, when Bill Lawson will give a talk on the history of Lewis. Rudhach The Rudhach is still looking for a replacement job-share designer, but there have been no applicants to date.		

		Comann Eachdraidh The Comann Eachdraidh, with funding from PST, is working on a project on Shielings, with a view to having an exhibition at the opening of Aros An Rubha. In addition, an exhibition to commemorate the centenary of the emigrant ships that left the islands for North America in 1923 and 1924 is at the early stages of planning.		
8	Financial Matters	It was noted that, in addition to activity related to the building works, there have been two of the recurring annual payments – for insurance and for the website	N Mackenzie	Ongoing
9	Next Meeting	The next meeting will be held following the AGM on Monday 1 st November.		