



A meeting of NCDC was held on: Wednesday, 5th July 2023, at 7:30pm, at Eshaness Community Centre, following site visit to Eshaness Lighthouse accommodation with Hazel Sutherland of Amenity Trust

Present – Bob McGeady (RM - Chair), Stephen Moore, Bill Manson (WM), James Titcomb, Alistair Williamson,

In Attendance – Charlotte Anderson and Iain Davidson

1. Apologies – M Roberts, J.A. Cromarty and D Brown

2. Approval of Minute – Minutes of meeting on 31st May 2023 were approved by WM and were seconded by AW

3. Nortenergy Update:

CA presented notes from MH – Nortenergy Board noted with sadness, the passing of their Finance Director and friend, Raymond Mainland. The board would take time to consider any replacement. Turnover between April and June was reported at £550K. Staffing at Nortenergy was noted as currently 3 f/t and 2 p/t. Sales in England & Wales were increasing and Turnover for 2023/24 was projected to be similar to the previous year at £1.3m

RM enquired of WM if the Loan Agreement had been completed. WM responded that he had managed to hold discussions with RM and would progress with assistance from MH. SM enquired if Nortenergy received anything form installation fees but it was reported that this all went to installer.

4. Growing Local Project – CA reported that the Planning Application for the Bruckland (5 x 12) Polycrub had been submitted. 1 of the donated wooden containers had been delivered and the other was due next week. Composting machine was also due to be delivered next week and she was confident that funding would be provided for both the Bruckland and Sullom Polycrub projects. She also reported that NJ was still keen to offer outside growing space.

5. Financial update – WM reported that all was in order with the finances and that the only anomaly this month was the lack of a wage payment due to payment being made on Monday 3rd July. This would mean a double wage bill showing for July.

6. Hillswick shop update – CA reported that there had been no response to the Ad for a General Manager to date. The Shop Board would need to readvertise but consider splitting the roles and hiring an Office Person instead. Gail from Scalloway Meat Co. had been seconded to help better set up the Computer/POS systems. CA reported that MR had passed on a request that the agreement to give £25K to the shop be minuted and

formalised. This was agreed by all present. WM stated that he would speak to the accountants to ascertain what was required.

JT reported that the Shop Board members were all concerned about the excessive hours being worked by one member of staff. These concerns centring around that person's health and welfare. CA also reported that there was to be new discussion around amending opening hours and that she was meeting this week with Just Enterprise to discuss the viability of the shop and also had met with Business Gateway for help creating an up-to-date business plan.

7. Weaving Shed update – ID reported that the Airbnb was almost fully booked until September and that EW's exhibition was going well. There were plans to hold further events in October, following a residency in early September and a Tapestry exhibition/workshop to coincide with Shetland Wool Week

8. Old Urafirth School Update – CA reported that a meeting had been held last week with Luke Fraser and Suzanne Malcolmson to discuss progress. SM had presented some preliminary drawings and Luke's survey was still progressing. There had been some discussion around demolishing the classroom rather than renovating and Suzanne had intimated that the difference in costs would be negligible.

9. Community Energy/Transport Hub – Meeting had been held but nothing further had come from it

10. Matters Arising –

Stucca: Planning application is progressing

Community Polycrub in Sullom: Decrofting is progressing

Admin Job: Directors agreed to progressing this but agreed that CA/ID should carry out the recruitment and CA become Line Manager

Bruckfest: Date had been changed to avoid clash with Yell Show and will now be 7th -10th September. So far there will be a repair café at the Ollaberry Hall on the 9th, Produce Show in North Roe on the 10th, Redd Up across the whole weekend and some things going on at Bruckland too. CA asked directors whether there could be something organised afterwards to thank all the volunteers for helping out.

Website Design: 2 quotes had been received and directors agreed to accept the quote from Squiggle. CA to progress

11. AOCB – South by Ronas Voe: CA informed directors that NCDC have been approached to buy a property in Northmavine that has just become vacant. There hasn't been a valuation done yet, but the owner said they would be happy with £50,000-55,000. Directors were unsure without seeing the condition of the property. CA suggested that NCDC could facilitate the sale.

PAT testing: CA informed directors that NCDC are members of Circular Economies Scotland which means 2 people can get training online to carry out PAT testing for free. NCDC would also be entitled to a discount on the testing equipment.

Lighthouse Visit: There was brief discussion following the earlier site visit with most of those present reluctant to commit to the project, particularly on grounds of initial costs of renovation. RM suggested that all the available info be circulated to all directors before making decision. There was more enthusiasm for acquiring Johnnie Notions' Bod with some directors querying the classification of this property with regards to new regs on energy ratings.

12. Date of Next Meeting – 16th August 2023

Meeting ended at 20:55