POINT AND SANDWICK TRUST

Minute of Meeting of Point and Sandwick Trust Board of Directors held in Café Roo on 16 December 2014 at 6.30 pm

PRESENT: Angus McCormack (Chairman)
Duncan Mackay (V-Chair)
Eddie MacGregor
Donald Macritchie
Kenny D Macdonald
Liz Chaplin
Andrew Mackenzie
Donald John Macsween
Calum Macdonald

APOLOGIES Nan Morrison
Jenny Pain
Donna Mackenzie
Agnes Munro
Matt Bruce

MINUTES

1 The Minute of Meeting of 18 November 2014 was approved subject to the inclusion of Donna Mackenzie in the sederunt for the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

2 The Chairman indicated that matters arising were mostly covered from Item 6 of the agenda onwards and invited members to raise any further issues. No further issues were raised.

PRESENTATION BY AN LANNTAIR

3 The Chairman extended a warm welcome to Elly Fletcher, Director of An Lanntair. Ms Fletcher thanked the Board for the opportunity to come and talk to them and proceeded to give a detailed presentation on all aspects of the work of An Lanntair and outlined the aspirations and vision for the future of the Arts Centre across the social, cultural and economic landscape of the island in the delivery of its programme of arts, creative and learning opportunities for the future.

The Chairman thanked Elly for her informative presentation and she then left the meeting.

PENTLAND ROAD WIND FARM

4 Calum MacDonald updated on the current position with Pentland Road Wind Farm. A request had been directed to the Chairman for gating of land because of concerns they had about joyriders using the track and it was noted that the Pentland gate was itself frequently unlocked. As regards the request for a gate, this had already been agreed although it was noted that PSDT would not be responsible for the long term security of any gate or of the old Pentland track as PSDT would only the using the track for the delivery of the turbines and not on regular, ongoing basis.

After discussion it was agreed that an update would be provided to the Board members at each meeting. On the basis of the information before them the Board would then take any necessary decisions.

Discussion took place concerning the Board's relationship with the Stornoway Trust. Calum MacDonald reported that a conflict of interest allegation about PSDT had been made to him by a particular member of the Stornoway Trust Board. The allegation itself had no substance but it was illustrative of the difficult relationship between PSDT and certain members of the Stornoway Trust.

After discussion, the Chairman indicated that he felt it would be advantageous to invite the Trustees of Stornoway Trust to an informal meeting where matters affecting both the Trust and PST could be discussed with a view to achieving a better understanding of each other's position regarding any issues which are causing difficulties between the Trust and PST.

It was agreed that a Declaration of Interest item would be placed on the agenda of future meetings.

FINANCE

5 The Chairman explained to the Board the difficulties being encountered due to the Lottery funding not having been received as yet. He stated that in order to cover the situation a suggestion had been made that the Power Company pay a temporary loan to Point and Sandwick Trust which would be repaid once the Lottery funding had been received.

The Trustees indicated their agreement to this course of action.

Calum Macdonald updated the Board members on the Trust's current financial position.

This was noted.

The General Manager reiterated the difficulties being experienced by the delay in the actual receipt of the Lottery money in the Trust's account. He explained the options open to the Board in these circumstances and the favoured option of the loan by the Power Company to Point and Sandwick Trust repayable upon receipt of the Lottery money.

After discussion of the current financial situation of the Board, the position was noted and the loan by the Power Company to the Trust was agreed.

It was also agreed that the General Manager would look into the issue of personal liability and report back to the next meeting of the Board.

BEINN GHRIDEAG PROGRESS REPORT

6 Calum Macdonald gave a detailed report on the Beinn Ghrideag project and indicated that good progress had been made with work on the site. He gave details of discussions taking place with LWP regarding the installation of expensive concrete ducts to protect cables and hoped that agreement would be reached on this in the near future.

He further indicated the turbines would be completed in the New Year and would arrive in two shipments, one from Germany and one from Portugal, during the week of 9 February.

Discussion took place regarding revised ferry routes which may affect the crane company's delivery of cranes for the necessary work at that time.

This was noted.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

7 **Finance**
The General Manager reported on the current financial position of PST.

Memorandum and Articles
The General Manager outlined the various difficulties being experienced with the process of changes to the Memorandum and Articles. He indicated that representations had been made to the Solicitor and it was agreed that the Board would follow the Solicitor's recommendations at a future Board meeting, followed by a Special General Meeting, possibly in April when the turbines are installed and commissioned, where similar resolutions are tabled. He indicated that this course of action had been agreed with the Solicitor.

Draft Grant Application Forms and Guidance Notes

The General Manager indicated that consultation was now beginning with the various community groups and other organisations on the ease of use and clarity of the guidance notes and applications forms. Once this has been completed, the forms and guidance notes would be resubmitted to the Board for final approval.

Website Update/Facebook
The General Manager indicated that the Facebook site was working well with regular updates and news on construction progress and that a new website front page would soon be ready to go live, together with ongoing work on the availability of the minutes from 2012 to date.

It was agreed that the website issue would be looked at as a matter of urgency**.**

Visit to Beinn Ghrideag
The General Manager gave details of a site visit had been organised for Thursday 18th at 12 noon.

Western Isles Development Trust
The General Manager indicated that he had been informed that his nomination paper to become a member of WIDT was received after the due date.

Grant Enquiries
The General Manager gave details of further informal grant enquiries which had been received from local groups and stated that he had informed them to get contact him again in April of next year when an update on progress would be available.

MEETING DATES FOR 2015

8 The following dates were agreed for Board meetings for 2015.

20th January
24th February
7th April
28th April – Special General Meeting
12th May
16th June
25th August
22nd September
23rd October – Annual General meeting
7th November
15th December

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9 There was no other business.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10 It was agreed that the next meeting of the Board would be held on 20 January 2015.