

**Minutes of The Annual Meeting of Western Isles Proprietors 27th August 2019 7pm.
Meeting Room 3 Stornoway Council Offices.**

Present:

Dickon Green (Chairman)
Jason Laing (Clerk to the Board)
Carolyn Ferguson (Admin assistant)
Sir Peter Cresswell (U&HE)
Richard Kershaw (Soval)
Donnie MacDonald (Rodel)
Stephen Hodges (Grimersta)
Iain Roxburgh (Gress Angling Club)
Innes Morrison (Amhunnsuidh and Morsgail)
Donnie Whiteford (Garynahyne)
Sally Reynolds (Carloway)

Apologies

Victor Beamish (Grimersta)
Dr Jan Abel (Stockinish)
Fred Martin (Aline)
Chris Macrae (Eisken)
Iain Maciver (Stornoway Trust)
Iain Trayner (Stornoway AA)
Ivar Mcary (Soval AC)

Chairmans Introduction

Dickon Green welcomed everyone and thanked them once again for coming.

Jason Laing advised that following consultation with Robert Younger of Fishlegal, in the case of community Trusts then the proprietor would either be a Trustee or Director of the Trust or someone mandated in writing under the 2003 act to act as proprietor, eg a factor.

He added that Iain Maciver of Stornoway Trust had been advised of this, as had Sally Reynolds of Carloway Estate Trust who had provided an appropriate letter giving her power to act as proprietor.

It was noted that due to a misunderstanding the Chairman and Clerk had not realised Innes Morrison had been nominated to act as proprietor for Pilatus Ltd who own Amhunnsuidhe and Morsgail. Although an appropriate letter from Pilatus had not arrived in time for this meeting, for future reference it would be Innes Morrison acting as proprietor from such time as the letter was received.

Peter Cresswell noted that more should be done to encourage engagement from some proprietors, notably South Uist.

Activities of the Board for the year to date

It was agreed that this had been covered in the discussions during the preceding Board meeting.

Jason Laing said that the interim report he had provided covered much of this for the benefit of the legally required submission to the Scottish Government and that a covering letter would explain that as the board had only been in existence since February a full annual report could not be produced yet.

Consideration of the Boards Accounts

Jason Laing explained that Robert Youngers advice was to submit an interim account to cover the year to date to the Scottish Government so as to comply with the good governance requirements. Once again this should be accompanied with a covering letter explaining why it is only interim accounts.

A discussion of how best to proceed with regard to the Boards financial year was had. Although the decision had originally been to have the accounting year from 12th Feb - 11th Feb it was agreed it was sensible to extend this financial year to 31st March and thereafter stick with the conventional 1st April – 31st March. This would enable the accounts to be considered and approved at the annual proprietors meeting in August. Levy invoices for the year should then be issued after 1st April.

The interim accounts were considered and it was agreed that they should be amended and distributed by email for approval once the banking error had been rectified.

It was once again noted that the Board should be tougher on debtors. Invoices should demand payment by return and if no payment from debtors was forthcoming by the end of September legal action to recover the debt should follow.

Discussion on funding Sea Patrols

It was agreed that this had been covered in the board meeting.

Proposed activities for the next year

Continue to develop and improve the WIDSFB website.

Encourage participation in events like the FMS annual conference.

Look to provide any additional training for water bailiffs that may be required.

Continue to keep members updated with any news from FMS that may be relevant – JL asked if members were happy with the current way these updates were forwarded and it was agreed they were.

Seek feedback with regard to the Fishpal website.

Hold two board meetings and one proprietors meeting annually.

AOB

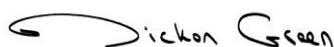
Peter Cresswell wanted it noted that it was a very good thing that the Board had decided to be inclusive and allow all fisheries to have a representative on the Board should they wish. He also said he was desperately concerned about the Gress river after hearing about their issues.

Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the date for the next annual meeting of proprietors should be set at the Board meeting on February 12th, but that it should continue to be an August meeting.

These minutes were approved and have been signed by:

Dickon Green



Date 07/11/2019

Jason Laing



Date 06/11/2019

