



HARRIS | FORUM

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Pursuing development through community connection

Title	Harris Forum Business Meeting Minutes		
Date	28/07/2025	Time	7.30pm
Venue	Former Primary School		
Distribution	Harris Forum Member Organisations (MOs)		

Present	Member Representatives: EVA KREILEDER (EK), HFDO – Minutes North Harris Community Council, NHCC: FRAN MILLER (FM); Chair of the HF AGNES MORRISON (AM); Scalpay Community Council, SCC: - South Harris Community Council, SHCC: DONNIE MACDONALD (DMD) North Harris Trust, NHT: KIRSTY MACKAY (KM) West Harris Trust, WHT: NEIL MACDONALD (NM) ANN PARRY (AP) Harris Voluntary Service, HVS: - Harris Development Ltd., HDL: - Western Isles Community Care Forum, WICCF: PEGGY MACKAY (PMK) Scalpay Community Association, SCA: - Community Learning & Development, CLD: MAIRI MACIVER (MM) Sport Harris: - Rionnagan Òga: - Leverhulme Community Hub: - Councillors: KENNY MACLEOD (KM, Cllr)	Agenda: 1. Welcome from Chair 2. Apologies 3. Approval of Minutes of Meeting 13th May 2025. 4. Matters Arising 5. Harris Forum meetings 5.1 Lack or lateness of apologies 5.2 Groups that never attend meetings 6. Funding of the HFDO roll 7. HFDO Update 7.1 Local Place Plan 7.2 Subgroups 7.3 Column in Dè tha dol? 7.4 Taking Flodabay Pier of the Harris Plan? 8. Member Organisation Reports 9. CnES Play Sufficiency Assessment It was minuted by the Forum and the Council, that the playpark in Leverburgh is number one priority! 10. Housing Subgroup Meeting 11. Housing Needs Assessment by Luke Fraser 12. Representation of the Youth within the Forum 13. Councillor Report 14. Transport Update 15. AOCB 16. DONM
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Agenda Item		Summary and Action	Who?	When?
1	Welcome from the Chair	All MO representatives welcomed.		
2	Apologies for absence	GORDON MACDONALD (MD), Sportharris; PAUL A. FINNEGAN (CIr) CATRIONA MACLENNAN (CML), Leverhulme Community Hub BARBARA MACKAY (BM), Harris Voluntary Service ANGUS J MACLEOD (AJM), Harris Development Ltd. BRYAN MACDERMID (BMD), Scalpay Community Council SHAUN BLOOMFIELD (SB), Scalpay Community Council GORDON NESS (GN), Scalpay Community Association KATHLEEN DUCE (KD), Rionnagan Òga MARION NICHOLS (MN), Rionnagan Òga CALUM MACKAY (CM), North Harris Trust		
3	Previous Minutes 13th May 2025	Proposed AP, Seconded MM.		
4	Matters Arising	Coastal Community Fund: The money of the Coastal Community fund has been distributed to all organisations. DMD thanked MM for her continuing efforts.		
5	Harris Forum meetings	5.1 Lack or lateness of apologies: The issue of late or the lack of apologies led to a not quorated meeting on the 8th July. The meeting had to be postponed which meant time of the attending members was wasted and some of them had quite a long journey time to get to the meetings. To prevent this in future: - If an in-person attendance isn't possible there always is an option to join the meeting online. - Organisations have to look for alternative members to attend the meeting. - Apologies need to be made by the Friday before the meeting date. 5.2 Groups that never attend meetings: The Membership Handbook is attached to the minutes and can be found on the HF website under documents. All members are asked to read the handbook and let the HF know if they wish to continue to stay a member. If yes, they are obliged to follow its rules. The Leverhulme hub already had an individual meeting. EK will formulise a letter to them to make them aware of their lack of attendance at meetings.	All All EK	14.08.2025
6	Funding of the HFDO roll	HIE have now secured the additional funding for our Dev' Officer total costs, from ScotGov, and so we are covered for the year 24/25 with 75% of costs from HIE. That means the £35K from the Crown Estate fund will more than cover the gap of 25% resulting in HF being able to extend the role upon beyond March 2025. The total cost of the HF DO role is approx. £38500. 75% is coming from HIE and 25% from the £35k funds held from the Crown Estate.	All	

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7	HFDO Update A written HFDO report was circulated prior to the meeting. 7.1 Local Place Plan A meeting was held before the HF general meeting, and all inputs will feed back into the Local Place Plan for Harris. Feedback so far was very positive and the Planning Department, Local Development Plan Team from CnES was highly impressed by it. The Local Place Plan will be exhibited at Tarbert Community Centre, Tigh mo Sheanar (smaller version), Leverhulme Hub and Talla Na Mara. There will be a Walk-in day at the Council offices in Tarbert at 9am -5pm on Monday the 4th August. 7.2 Subgroups All subgroups need to have a chair of one of the participating HF member organisations. A chair will be appointed at each of the next subgroup meetings. 7.3 Column in Dè tha dol? Will be continued with focus on the Coastal Community Fund recipients 2025. After the official announcements of the recipients within the Dè tha dol?, groups who received the Coastal Community Fund will be asked to write about their project. Additional discussion about the Coastal Community Fund: - Feedback from DMD, all the money received for the Coastal Community Fund should go directly out to the individual wards without top slicing it. - General procedures explained by KM, Cllr.: The Coastal Community Fund comes from the Scot. Gov. to the Council. It's the right of the council to decide what happens with the money and how it's allocated. The allocated money for the Wards is split equally between the different Wards independent of their size. 7.4 Taking Flodabay Pier of the Harris Plan? Project will stay on the plan and is supported by the South Harris Community Council. General rule: Every project remains on the Harris Plan. It will only be removed if it's completed or the group is no longer existing and there is no other group taking the project on board.		
8	Member Organisation Reports SHCC is looking for members from all different parts of their area, in particular for representatives of the Bays. It was asked by DMD to spread the word and promote it within the HF member organisations.		
9	CnES Play Sufficiency Assessment It was agreed that a letter will be send from the HF as a united response from the Harris Forum. EK will draft a letter on behalf of the Harris Forum. It should be outlined that there are other areas than only playparks which are important for children to play and that the Leverburgh Playpark is still number one priority within the Harris area.	EK	14.08.2025
10	Housing Subgroup Meeting Reminder: Housing Subgroup meeting on the 30.07.2025 at 14.00.		

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11	Housing Needs Assessment by Luke Fraser	Fee proposal has been received. The full housing needs assessment for Harris would cost £5,500. It was agreed to proceed with the proposal of the housing needs assessment. The assessment should include: - Ways of communication, pressure on services and relevant needs like schools, doctors etc. for future houses. EK will look for suitable funding availability and apply for funding with support of the Chair of the housing subgroup.	EK	02/09/2025
12	Representation of the Youth within the Forum	There used to be a youth representative at the Forum meeting. It was agreed that it might not be the best way to invite the youth council to the Harris Forum meetings. The Youth Council should be approached by the Harris Forum for a separate meeting. FM agreed to meet up with the Youth Council. MM will inform her about the next upcoming meeting.	MM, FM	Before next meeting
13	Councillor Report	- Ongoing discussions on benefits from windfarm projects - Windfarm projects will put more pressure onto housing situation, infrastructure and ferries. It's expected to have 1,500 more people plus their family living on the island during the construction phase. - Police man within school in Stornoway worked very well. Project will be expended to reduce anti-social behaviour. - Laureen Graham will be the new planning officer responsible for Harris, following Iain Watson. - Working group for bus contract 2026 with push for improved bus services. - Roads improved within Harris in Ardhassaig and Northton. Road surfaces are better within the Western Isles than in other parts of the country, e.g. Skye. 1km of road costs £1mio. Money isn't available. But road department is quick in responding to pot hole reports. If there are issues with roads contacting the roads department directly or let KM know and he will pass it on. If potential money is coming in for road improvements it will go to Uist first, to solve major problems.		
14	Transport Update	- Core members of the HF were invited to the Transport Group meetings. If attendance of HF members stays as high, the update within the HF general meeting will be omitted. Hope for continuation of strong attendance of HF members. - General concerns: ➢ Timetables ➢ Increase of ferries to 2 or 3 a day, maintenance issues were raised. ➢ Booking system - Content of CalMac contract for next 10 years is unknown. - Proposed to SSEN to hire or buy a boat for their freight deliveries. - Mezzanine deck is sorted. - Bow visor is sorted. - Sound of Harris is part of trial period to reserve three spaces for locals on each crossing.		

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		Question has been asked about priorities for people who have to attend a funeral. Different experiences so far, but general rule should be to at least get on top of the priority list of the standby passengers.		
15	AOCB	EK will be off on holiday from 8 th September until 15 th October 2025.		
16	DONM	Next Business Meeting on 2 nd September 2025, 7:30pm, North Harris Trust meeting room.		