



# HARRIS | FORUM

*Progress | Partner | Protect  
Adhartas | Cairdeas | Dion*

*Pursuing development through community connection*

Title	Harris Forum EGM and Business Meeting Minutes		
Date	20/05/2024	Time	7.30pm
Venue	Talla na Mara		
Distribution	Harris Forum Member Organisations (MOs)		

<b>Present</b>	<p>DAVID MACDONALD (DM), HFDO;</p> <p>ANGUS J MACLEOD (AJM), HDL – Vice-Chair; KENNY MACLEOD (KM), HDL;</p> <p>MICHAEL HUNTER (MH), NHT – Secretary;</p> <p>PEGGY MACKAY (PMK), WICCF;</p> <p>GORDON NESS (GN), SCA; SHAUN BLOOMFIELD (SB), SCA;</p> <p>AGNES MORRISON (AM), NHCC; FRAN MILLER (FM), NHCC;</p> <p>BRIAN MACDERMAID (BM), SCC;</p> <p>DONNIE MACDONALD (DMD), SHCC;</p> <p>JULIETTE DESPORTERS (JD), HVS;</p> <p>MAIRI MACIVER (MM), CLD;</p> <p>LINDA ARMSTRONG (LA), WHT; (present for business meeting, not EGM)</p> <p>PAUL FINNEAGAN (PF), Councillor.</p>	<p>EGM</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcome from Vice Chair</li> <li>2. Apologies</li> <li>3. Constitution</li> </ol> <p>Business Meeting</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcome from Vice Chair</li> <li>2. Apologies</li> <li>3. Approval of Minutes of Meeting 11th March 2024.</li> <li>4. Matters Arising             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Executive Group</li> <li>b. Subgroups</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. HFDO Report and Harris Plan             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Tarbert Charity Shop #103</li> <li>b. West Harris Trust – additional project #102</li> <li>c. Leverburgh Community Hub – updated project. #61</li> <li>d. North Harris Trust – updates #25,#35,#72 New project - #104.</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. HFDO Time Request (s)             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Sport Harris</li> </ol> </li> <li>7. HF Membership Application</li> <li>8. Member Organisations Reports</li> <li>9. Councillor Report</li> <li>10. Crown Estate Funding</li> <li>11. Support for Communities Framework</li> <li>12. CoDel – Uist Beo equivalent</li> <li>13. Northton Heritage Trust - Letter of Support request</li> <li>14. Transport Update</li> <li>15. AOCB</li> <li>16. DONM</li> </ol>
----------------	--	---

Agenda Item		Summary and Action	Who?	When?
1	Welcome from the Vice-Chair	All MO representatives welcomed.		
2	Apologies for absence	CALUM J MACKAY, NHT; NEIL MACDONALD, WHT; RIONNAGAN OG.		
3	Constitution	The proposed Constitution as revised and discussed at previous meetings was agreed by all MOs present and adopted.		

Agenda Item		Summary and Action	Who?	When?
1	Welcome from the Vice-Chair	All MO representatives welcomed.		
2	Apologies for absence	CALUM J MACKAY, NHT; NEIL MACDONALD, WHT; RIONNAGAN OG.		
3	Approval of Minutes of Meeting 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Proposed by DMD, Seconded by MM		
4	Matters Arising	a. Executive Subgroup. The MO poll returned a result of 9 in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention. Initial members to be Vice-Chair (AJM), HFDO (DM), Secretary (MH), MO Rep (JD), MO Rep (MM); for a period from the current meeting until two business meetings hence. The Executive Group will meet and communicate when required to approve actions for the HFDO. This will generally be in response to requests and communications from third parties to the HFDO.	Executive Subgroup	As needed
		b. Subgroups. It was agreed that a Tourism subgroup should be formed, primarily to develop a coordinated community-led approach to the increasing number of Cruise Ship visitors. Representatives from SHCC, NHCC, SCC, HDL, HVS, WHT, NHT, will attend a first meeting, decide on a way forward, and report back at the next Forum business meeting. c. Other. An informal working group, including some MOs, has been formed to improve childcare provision and operation in both Tarbert and Leverburgh. Good progress has been made so far.	Tourism Subgroup	Within one month
5	HFDO Report and Harris Plan	A written HFDO report was tabled and comments invited. The first Spotlight Session on Housing was held on 6 <sup>th</sup> May, the meeting was useful and generated some good quotes for the Harris Plan. Thanks was extended to SHCC and MM for their support. The second Spotlight Session on Transport is scheduled for 23 <sup>rd</sup> May, MOs are asked to attend and advertise.  Proposed updates to the Harris Plan were previously circulated. a. Tarbert Charity Shop, Harris Plan New Project #103 b. West Harris Trust, New Project #102 c. Leverburgh Community Hub, Project #61 Update d. North Harris Trust, Project #25, #35, #72 Updates, New Project #61. All were approved by the MOs.	All MOs	23 <sup>rd</sup> May
6	HFDO Time Request	a. Sport Harris have requested HFDO time to progress a funding application to support a feasibility study on an all-weather facility in Tarbert. This was approved by the MOs.	DM	As needed

Agenda Item		Summary and Action	Who?	When?
7	HF Membership Application	A HF Membership Application has been submitted by Sport Harris. The application was approved by MOs.		
8	MO Reports	<p>Written reports from MOs were tabled and comments invited. The Harris Locality Planning Meeting recently held a meeting with CnES, and is seeking funding and space for a day service. MOs have been asked to consider whether any space might be available.</p> <p>The availability of CnES Old Primary School Offices was raised and it was highlighted that they are often unmanned and closed to the public. PF will investigate the current situation and plans for the provision of CnES services from the building and report back.</p>	<p>All Mos</p> <p>PF</p>	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>Next meeting</p>
9	Councillor Report	<p>PF Councillor report. It was highlighted that there is a need for at least one Councillor candidate from Harris to ensure local representation, the deadline for nominations is 3<sup>rd</sup> June. MO representatives were asked to consider whether they might be able to stand.</p> <p>The work and dedication of Grant Fulton in his time as Councillor was recognised by all MOs, DM will submit a letter to De Tha Dol on behalf of the Harris Forum, thanking Grant for his work as Councillor.</p>	DM	21st May
10	Crown Estate Funding	<p>Ward Funding for round 5 has been reduced to £75k, the deadline for applications is 7<sup>th</sup> June. It was clarified that although applications are made via a CnES portal, they are received by MM, who will issue to a MO selection panel, to make recommendations to PF, and CnES, for funding awards. This mirrors the process in previous rounds. It was also noted that the eligibility and selection criteria have been clarified, but that the decisions are ultimately made by the local community via the Forum.</p> <p>GN led criticism and disappointment by many MOs in the CnES decision to top-slice to support what appear to be primarily Stornoway-based services/projects, and so reduce ward funding to £75k each. Unfortunately, although it was agreed that this CnES decision was incorrect, it appears that there is little which can be done at this stage.</p> <p>AJM suggested that the Forum should use this funding to contribute to a continuation of the HFDO role beyond March 2025. At this point DM declared a Col and temporarily left the meeting to allow free discussion amongst the MOs. KM clarified that HIE may be in a position to offer match funding to a continuation of the HFDO role, this should be confirmed in August 2024. It was considered that this could be a wise use of the funding, as HFDO time can be used to multiply and bring significantly more funding into the local community, both directly to the Forum and via various local groups and organisations. HFDO contributions to smaller community groups were particularly noted.</p> <p>Although most MO representatives present were inclined to support this suggestion at the meeting, it was decided that a MO poll should be undertaken in the coming days to allow a well-considered decision to be made. Due to DM Col, MH will issue and report results of the poll. It was requested that MOs respond promptly, by 25<sup>th</sup> May if possible.</p> <p>DM returned to the meeting.</p>	MH	21 <sup>st</sup> May

Agenda Item		Summary and Action	Who?	When?
11	Support for Communities Framework	HIE would support a Forum application to the Support for Communities Framework which would provide a consultant to seek a more sustainable long-term funding model and make 2-4 applications towards the HFDO role. MOs agreed that this should be progressed.	DM	By next meeting
12	CoDel – Uist Beo equivalent	Uist Beo have approached the Forum to develop a similar initiative for Harris. MOs agreed that this should be investigated, HVS will do so and report back.	JD	Next meeting
13	Northton Heritage Trust – Letter of Support request	MOs agreed that the Harris Forum should write a letter of support for the project. DM to draft. AJM to sign on behalf of the Forum.	DM/AJM	As needed
14	Transport Update	Transport Forum update that there has been much activity with Calmac/CMAL/Transport Scotland consultations having taken place throughout west coast communities. Consultation meetings were well attended and feedback will be produced in due course. A meeting on timetabling is upcoming and an update will be available once this is in place. It was also highlighted that flights continue to be disrupted.		
15	AOCB	DMD highlighted that an article in the Gazette was published on E-coli is present at the Seilebost-Luskentyre Estuary, SEPA are being pursued for attention and an investigation. AM raised the issue of public bins and the inadequacy of a 3 weekly emptying schedule. Cleansing can be contacted to resolve any pressing issues. A request for HFDO time has come from the Flodabay pier project. MOs agreed.	DM	As needed
16	DONM	24 <sup>th</sup> June 2024, Leverburgh Hub TBC		