

## PAIRC TRUST AGM 2018

THURSDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 7.30PM, PAIRC SCHOOL

### Directors present:

Angus McDowall (AMcD), Ken Kennedy (KK), John Murdo Matheson (JMM) Kenny Mackay (KM) Ishbel MacLennan (IM), Iain Norman Macleod (INM), Joe Wilson (JW), Angus Nicolson (AN)

### Apologies:

Steve Mortimore (SM)

### Others also present:

17 members

3 others

Fiona Stokes (admin)

Calum Macdonald (CIB Services) (CM)

### 1. Welcome & Apologies

- AMcD opened the meeting, thanked everyone for attending and remarked that it was good to see that the 3 councillors for the South Lochs & Harris ward were present again this year.
- AMcD introduced a new director, Angus Nicolson who has joined the board at this AGM.
- FS reported apologies had been received from Steve Mortimore and Kenny Mackay.
- AMcD apologised that the AGM had fallen so late in the year but said he would explain the reason later in the meeting.

### 2. Minutes from 2017 AGM (held on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2017)

- AMcD asked those present at the AGM last year if the minutes were an accurate record. The minutes were proposed as accurate by Ishbel MacLennan and seconded by Donnie Morrison.

### 3. Matters Arising

- none

### 4. Chairman's Report

- AMcD provided a report on activity from April 2017 to March 2018 (included as an addendum to these minutes)
- AMcD thanked all the Directors and Members who have voluntarily helped Pairc Trust throughout the year. The ward councillors are represented at every board meeting, a new Marine sub group has been set up and more people within Pairc are getting involved. The Trust is committed to running the estate better under community ownership than the previous 80 years under a private landlord and is grateful for the support.

### 5. Financial Report

- CM reported on pages 5 & 6 of the accounts which had been distributed to the audience, being the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet.
- Notable items were that loan relief given by the Muaitheabhal Wind Farm Trust had given a positive effect on funds during the year. The bulk of outgoings for the year had been spent on wages and office costs, supported by a grant from the Muaitheabhal Wind Farm Trust. The Trust also received an income from the estate through crofts rents, wayleaves and leases.
- The total funds reported were £538,499, an increase from £499,745 in the previous year, which is mostly composed of the value of the estate. AMcD asked whether it would be useful to get the estate revalued as it may have increased in value since the buyout in 2015. CM said it might be useful in the future as an exercise for the balance sheet.

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- AMcD proposed that he would like to nominate CIB services to be the Trust accountant for the following year. JMM seconded the nomination.

### 6. Election of Directors

- AMcD explained that no election was required for directors this year as there were less volunteers than the number of seats on the board. He outlined the following movements:
- Joe Wilson and Iain Norman Macleod had been co-opted onto the board during the year and they were now welcomed on as elected members at this AGM.
- Steve Mortimore, Ken Kennedy and John Murdo Matheson were all due to retire on rotation, as outlined in the company constitution. SM had decided not to stand again and AMcD thanked SM for his years of service with the Trust, when he had been a great support to the chair and board. KK and JMM will be standing again and AMcD welcomed them back to the board.
- Alan Wilson had resigned during the year of this AGM and AMcD thanked AW for his hard work and time helping to set up the Housing subgroup and begin the Gravir Housing project.
- AMcD reminded members that they should think about putting themselves forward to become directors of the Trust now that the estate is community owned.

### 7. Articles of Association

- FS outlined a proposal to use a template Articles of Association instead of the existing Pairc Trust constitution document. The template has been developed by the Scottish Government for community groups involved in land buyouts and incorporates many changes to the law which have occurred since the existing Pairc Trust constitution was drafted in 2003. Other trusts on Lewis & Harris are using the template and are finding it fit for purpose.
- FS ran through an infographic showing the main differences between the old and new constitutions.

### 8. Special Resolution

- FS made a recommendation to members that they vote YES to accept the proposed Articles of Association. There was a clear majority for agreement and the Special Resolution was passed.

### 9. Update on Recent Developments

- AMcD outlined activities of the Trust for the period from March 2018 to the present.

### 8. Any Other Business

- Councillor John Mitchell addressed the room to let everyone know about their ward priority funding. The councillors decided at the outset of their term to pool their ward funds which allows them to potentially offer bigger awards to groups who apply to the fund. In the last year they have supported in South Lochs an after school club, swimming lessons, a village noticeboard and costs towards the defibrillator machines.
- JM also outlined a one off 'Infrastructure Fund' available. It is for use towards the costs of permanent projects such as Pathways, bus shelters, tourist facilities, benches or piers. It is especially useful where projects have a shortfall identified as it can contribute to overall project costs.
- Dave Phillips addressed the room to let everyone know about the popularity of the health-walks which have been running since January. He thanked FS for organising them and reminded everyone that they are every Saturday and Tuesday at 11am.

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- IM asked John Randall to say a few words on the book being written about the Pairc Trust buyout. The book has had contributions from many people involved in the Pairc Trust buyout and the wider community land ownership movement. The trust has seen each draft of the book and while the board as a whole may not have agreed with Bobs interpretation, they recognise the significant interest in and importance of the story further afield. John reported that he has been in touch with a publisher and is hoping it will be published in 2019. IM expressed thanks to Bob Chambers for the time taken to document a complicated part of the Trust's history.
- John Groom addressed the room to say he was pleased to see the Trust has had a settled year and is in a stable position. He specifically thanked AMcD for all his efforts and recognised the work that any volunteer director is required to contribute.

AMcD thanked all for attending, wished everybody a good night and closed the meeting at 9pm.

DRAFT