



LEWIS & HARRIS DEER MANAGEMENT GROUP (LHDMG)

NOTE OF MEETING

DATE: 08 June 2017
TIME: 10.30am
VENUE: Borve Lodge Estate, Isle of Harris

Present: Steven Woodhall (*Borve Lodge Estate*); Gordon Cumming (*North Harris Trust*); Malcolm MacPhail (*Morsgail Estate*); Chris MacRae (*Eishken Estate*); Innes Morrison (*Amhuinnsuidhe Castle Estate*); Philip Bertin (*Police Scotland*); Murdo Mackay (*West Harris Trust*); Calum Mackay (*North Harris Trust*); Ivan Brown (*Barvas Estate Trust*); Lisa Maclean (*Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn*); Iain Maciver (*Stornoway Trust*), Olly Alston (*Aird Bheag*), Alison Alston (*Aird Bheag*), Iain MacLeod (*Aline Community Woodland*)

In attendance: Graeme Taylor (*Scottish Natural Heritage*) via telephone

Apologies: Michael MacKenzie (*Soval Lodge*), Donnie Whiteford (*Garynahine Estate*), Simon Hunt (*Uig & Hamanavay*)

Item	
1.	Welcome and Introductions
2.	Declaration of Interests – Steve Woodhall & Gordon Cumming both declared interests at 8.1
3.	Appointment of Office Bearers
3.1	Following a short overview of the status of the group and the vision for the future it was agreed that the appointment of office bearers to allow progress to continue would be the most appropriate way forward. It was proposed that Steven Woodhall is appointed as Chair of the group. This was agreed with no objections.

	<p>It was proposed that Gordon Cumming is appointed as Treasurer of the group. This was agreed with no objections.</p> <p>Lisa Maclean was appointed as Secretary of the group. This was agreed with no objections.</p> <p>Office bearers will remain in office until the first AGM, which will take place as soon as possible following receipt of the management plan, which is expected in the first quarter of 2018.</p> <p>It was agreed that all those appointed to office would do so in principle until they had ensured their respective employers were in agreement.</p>
4.	Constitution
4.1	<p>A draft constitution was circulated ahead of the meeting. The group adopted the constitution, subject to the following amendments:</p> <p><u>Meetings</u> Amend “less than two-thirds of group” to read 7 members as a quorum.</p> <p><u>Funding and Financial Arrangements</u> Amend “The Treasurer/Secretary and the Chairman of the Group “to read “The group” will operate a bank account.... with two signatories.”</p>
4.2	<p>Graeme Taylor (SNH) (via tele conference) provided an overview of the importance of having an area wide deer management plan. It was explained that the data gathering is supportive to management and there are various other considerations such as public interest objectives, socio-economic benefits and environmental objectives.</p> <p>A plan should be considered as a path or progress - public interest, but not at the cost of members’ private interests. It was stressed that SNH can support 50% of the costs involved in drawing up a plan and the management group (via the members) would fund the remaining 50% as a group. Geographical coverage and deer range is of importance.</p> <p>It was explained there are consequences of not having a management plan in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No financial support to develop a plan beyond this current window of opportunity - Enforcement under various part of the Deer (<i>Scotland</i>) Act 1996 Deer Management, which could result in penalties. <p>Opportunities widen with a plan i.e. agri-environment climate scheme and the ECAS Scheme administered by SNH. There may be assistance for deer counts, Habitat Impact Assessments (HIA) if a plan is in place.</p>
5.	Membership Fees
5.1	<p>A recommendation was made for a basic membership fee of £20.00 per annum for the LHDMG. This was agreed by all present.</p>
5.2	<p>A recommendation was made that the LHDMG adopt the Association of Deer Management Groups (ADMG) annual membership fees set as follows: £4 per Stag, £2 per hind shot on an annual basis.</p> <p>This is in line with other groups and it was agreed this was the fairest way to proceed.</p>

	The basic membership fee ensures there is a small balance held to cover sundries/admin if required.
6.	Bank Account Protocol / Signatories
6.1	It was agreed that four people should be placed on the bank account as signatories, with two signatures required for cheques etc. Iain Maciver (Stornoway Trust) offered to act as a fourth signatory in addition to the office bearers.
7.	Bank Account
7.1	It was agreed the previous Management group bank account should be closed, if possible. A new account should be opened as a priority.
8.	Tendering for production of Deer Management Plan
8.1	<p>Prior to the meeting a scoring matrix was circulated, following consideration by the panel for the tenders received to undertake the work to produce a management plan for the group.</p> <p>Gordon explained the tendering process and the weighting for the scoring of tenders.</p> <p>Steve Woodhall declared an interest: One tenderer has been offered accommodation at Borge Lodge whilst carrying out work, if appointed. This was taken into consideration as part of the process and following discussion around the various elements of the scoring it was agreed unanimously that Tenderer 1 is appointed. (INSERT NAME AFTER ALL PARTIES HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF OUTCOME OF TENDER PROCESS)</p> <p>Some discussion was held around timescales and it was felt it would be helpful to have a draft of the plan by the year end to ensure the final draft can be signed off at the end of February.</p> <p>Group also agreed that if tenderer 1 cannot meet the deadline, or the cost increases significantly during negotiations, then tenderer 2 may be appointed. Office bearers to move forward with awarding of contract and completing the tendering process.</p>
9.	AOCB
9.1	It was agreed that appropriate PR should be undertaken when the group is fully constituted and ready to issue a press release as this would raise awareness and support engagement. Community newspapers should be used also.
10.	Date of Next Meeting
	Date and venue to be confirmed