

Outer Hebrides Tourism Community Interest Company & Outer Hebrides Tourism Trading Community Interest Company. MINUTES - AGM (2023) 30th January 2025

Requested attendance on Zoom: Sarah MacLean, Sue Reid, Jane Loomes, Dave Loomes, Stuart Beaufoy, Alan Graham, Mairi Thomson, Magaidh Smith, Elaine Fothergill, Rhoda Campbell, Eileen Murray, Iain Faller, Linda Davis, Megan McDonald, Natalie Campbell, Julie Sloan, Sarah Maclean, plus other members that joined on zoom.

Apologies: Ian Fordham, Patricia Martin, Linda Johnson

1. Welcome

Chairman Sue Reid welcomed all to the meeting, thanked everyone for attending and confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

2. Minutes of last AGM (2022) were approved by Jane Loomes and Sue Reid.

3. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report and accounts were noted. Combined summary sheets were circulated ahead of meeting. Income & expenditure for the year were explained to those present. Financial accounts for 2023 were circulated ahead of meeting. No comments received.

4. Chief Executive's Report

Sarah reported on all the projects developed, completed and ongoing in 2023/2024 and discussed plans for 2025. Please see PDF of presentation.

5. OHT Constitution 2024

The new updated constitution for OHT was approved and accepted by members.

6. Office Bearers – note Board & Office Bearers

Stuart Beaufoy and Iain Faller nominated Sue to continue as Chair and Treasurer. Iain Faller and Jane Loomes nominated Patricia to continue as Secretary. Board members as per companies' house, with a view to recruiting new board members.

5. Any Other Competent Business

Question and comments:

1. Has any work been done to assess the impact on tourism on Lewis of the proposed new wind farms both on and offshore?
Spioraid na Mara (Westside offshore project) is undertaking a Social Impact Assessment via local consultancy firm Atlantic58 and OHT have contributed to this from the perspective of the local tourism industry.
OHT takes a neutral stance on infrastructure and development projects which sit outside our main remit as we are mindful that we must represent the views of our members and these will be varied. However the Board have agreed to survey members within affected communities to allow us to give an informed view of those businesses.

Members attending the meeting who were from the Westside area felt that the development would negatively affect tourism.
2. Has the HebWay section of path and bridge between Langass and Lochport been repaired?
It was confirmed that it was indeed being fixed and work was ongoing or even complete.

Sue thanked everyone for attending closed the meeting at 7.25pm.