

*Going Forward
Together*



STÒRAS UIBHIST

1 Bornish, South Uist, Western Isles. HS8 5SA

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Press Release for Immediate Use:

Askernish Golf Course Land Court Case

Stòras Uibhist and seven Askernish crofters are pleased to announce they have reached an agreement in principle regarding the dispute re Askernish Golf Course. The Land Court will be asked to continue the case so that the settlement can be finalised.

Following extensive discussions at Grogarry Lodge, Stòras Uibhist, Askernish Golf Club and seven Askernish crofters reached an outline agreement for the continued operation of the Old Tom Morris Askernish Golf Course originally laid out in 1891, alongside the exercise of the souming (grazing rights) by the Askernish township.

The agreement is based on the Land Court Statement of February 24th 2009 [SLC/37/08] which determined the extent to which golf could be played, alongside the exercise of the crofters grazing and other rights. All parties today attended the Land Court in session at Polochar Inn, South Uist, to present the agreement to the Court and ask the court to continue the case to settlement.

Angus MacMillan, Chairman of Stòras Uibhist said, ‘We look forward to working with the Golf Club and the Township to ensure that the Golf Course and crofting practices continue on Askernish machair as they have since 1922. The Elected Directors of the Community Company are delighted that this agreement has been reached and that the project can reach its full potential in making an important contribution to the regeneration of local economy.’

William J MacDonald, Chairman Askernish Grazings Committee, said, ‘We are satisfied that a negotiated settlement has been reached which will secure the long-term future for crofting on Askernish machair.’

Ralph Thompson, Chairman of Askernish Golf Club, added, ‘Askernish Golf Club are delighted that a mutual agreement has been reached. This agreement will allow the golf course to prosper for the benefit of all the South Uist community.’

Background Information

On behalf of the 4000 strong community, Stòras Uibhist manages a 93,000 acre estate of over 850 crofts, covering the majority of the islands of Eriskay, Benbecula and South Uist, which make up almost a quarter of the Western Isles (Outer Hebrides) region of Scotland.

The estate was purchased by Stòras Uibhist, a Community Company with a board of directors democratically elected by residents of the estate, in December 2006. The islands are now managed by Stòras Uibhist as a crofting estate, for the benefit of the community as a whole. The company has a number of major projects under development to improve the economic and social health of the estate area - www.storasuibhist.com/commercial/.

Further information can be obtained from Huw Francis, Chief Executive, Stòras Uibhist, 1 Bornish, Isle of South Uist HS8 5SA; Tel: 01878 700101; huw.francis@storasuibhist.com.