



North Uist Community Council Comhairle Coimhearsnachd Uibhist a Tuath

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NORTH UIST COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN LOCHMADDY HALL ON MONDAY 18 JANUARY 2016 AT 7.30PM

Present: Sheena Stewart - Chair
Flora MacDonald – Vice Chair
Cllr Uisdean Robertson - Secretary
John MacDonald
Donald E Morrison
Terry Wakeling
Donald A MacLennan
Joan Ferguson
Ken MacDonald
Cllr Andrew Walker

Apologies: Effie Rodger
Christine Cameron
Cllr Neil Beaton

Public: David Newman
Simon Davies
Margaret Saxton
P C Angus Morrison
Ian S Morrison

1.0 Adoption of Minute: Proposed: John MacDonald
Seconded: Flora MacDonald

2.0 Statement of Account:
Signatories for the cheque book have now been sorted with the bank. Challenge Fund of £1960 has been paid in to our account. The Secretary's remuneration of £250 has been paid. The £300 that was paid inadvertently into the Dr MacLeod's Memorial Fund has still got to be paid back. It was decided to invite Margaret MacQuarrie to the next meeting to discuss.

3.0 Matters Arising:

3.1 Deer – A further meeting of the newly formed Deer Management Group

has been held in Benbecula and initial work has been done on the Deer Management Plan.

3.2 Spanish Bridge – There is still no signs erected at the bridge and Andrew will talk to Donnie Johnson in Balivanich to see if this issue can be addressed as soon as possible. The Secretary had sent NUDC some information about potential funding from SUSTRANS.

3.3 Integrated Joint Board:
There was to be a consultation meeting about the strategic plan on 8th February in Benbecula.

3.4 CMAL:
We are having a meeting with CMal at 6.30pm in Carinish Hall on Wednesday 3rd February.

3.5 Lochmaddy Hospital:
Note from Malcolm to be inserted here.

4.0 Lochmaddy Surgery:
Secretary had spoken to Gordon Jamieson of the Health Board and he has tasked his estates team to look at the situation re parking at the surgery. The hall committee have indicated that they are happy for the hall car park to be used.

5.0 Eaval/Leirnish Project:
David Newman and Simon Davies gave a presentation and a note of this is attached to the minute. They were looking for the Community Council to front the project. Historic Environment Scotland are doing the work at a cost of £11,000 over a week. The community were expected to contribute £1200 towards this project. The Secretary has undertaken to apply for this funding. It was agreed by all present that the Community Council were happy to front this project.

6.0 Police Matters:
Angus Morrison, Acting Sergeant was present at the meeting and gave a briefing on the situation in North Uist. In the Western Isles context staffing has been very good but not so currently in Uist and Barra. Paul Fletcher who is off due to illness is being replaced by temporary staff from Stornoway until June. In terms of Mark Hutcheon's post a constable from Glasgow has expressed interest in the job. In Barra interviews were due to take place tomorrow for the current vacancy that exists. The staffing requirement for Uist is six constables plus one sergeant and two constables in Barra. The issue of police attendance at accidents was raised. Sgt Morrison indicated that if people exchange details and if there is no injury the police do not have to attend. He indicated that there was always two police on duty at the

same time. Reference was made to sale days and traffic management but it was felt that it was more appropriate to speak to the Mart Committee in the first instance. Speeding remains a concern and nuisance calls were also on the increase.

7.0 Challenge Fund:

The cleaning of headstones has still not happened and we have had no opportunity to discuss as the volunteer involved is still on the mainland due to family commitments. The Secretary undertook to speak to Alasdair MacEachen to see if the council could help.

For this year's challenge fund we are still seeking ideas for sighting benches.

8.0 Social Fund:

It was agreed to divide the £500 between four groups, Bayhead and Sollas Senior Citizens, Craigard, Trianaid and Tagsa Uibhist.

9.0 Defibrillator:

Concern had been expressed that there were no defibrillators in an area of North Uist that covered from Bayhead to Grimsay. A number of suggestions were made in terms of location e.g. Clachan Church, Kallin harbour and somewhere in Bayhead. Scottish Fuels had given Taigh Chearsabhagh in Lochmaddy a defibrillator and it was suggested that Robertsons Construction could be approached in regards to funding one in Bayhead. In terms of the other areas it was suggested that 'Lucky to be Here' should be approached as they were willing to help communities with funding, sighting and training for defibrillators.

10.0 Councillors Report:

There was a wide ranging discussion on 30+ budget choice headings. There was also discussion on the new bus contracts but we are awaiting more information on the details.

11.0 Ferries:

A lot of work had been done in relation to trying to get the 'Hebrides' back on the triangle route because of the huge problems that were occurring because of its removal to other areas. We need to do some work prior to next winter to ensure that this does not happen again.

12.0 PSO:

We are still awaiting more information which had been requested from Scottish Government.

13.0 Health:

There was to be more consultation meetings in Benbecula to discuss mental health redesign and Uist and Barra Hospital and the issue of

dental surgeries.

14.0 Matters Raised by Members of the Public:

14.1 Salt Pile – It was said that there was only two days supply left at Ahmhor. Having the pile at Ahmhor has certainly helped with timeous gritting in the morning. It would be useful to make sure that several days supply of stock were always on site.

14.2 Events – It was felt that it would be useful if there was some means of having a calendar of dates in order to avoid clashes. It would be useful if Am Paipear on its website kept an update of events.

14.3 Mail Plane – Concern had been expressed on the issue of a number of cancellations of the mail plane because of technical issues. It was felt that this presented problems for people who were receiving perishable items. It was said that the plane sometimes comes as far as Stornoway but not down to Uist. There were also situations when the plane was late and mail delivery was not done until the next day. It would be useful to find out what the cut off time is in terms of mail delivery. The Secretary stated that they were having a meeting with Loganair in Stornoway and would raise the issue of mail plane cancellations.

15.0 Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be on 22 February in Carinish Hall at 7.30pm.