



**North Uist Community Council**  
**Comhairle Coimhearsnachd Uibhist a Tuath**

**Secretary** : Uisdean Robertson  
Ferguslea, 16 Carinish, North Uist, HS6 5HL  
Telephone : 01876 580369  
e-mail :- u.robertson@cne-siar.gov.uk

**NORTH UIST COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN TAIGH SGIRE SHOLAIS  
ON MONDAY 25 APRIL 2016 AT 7.30PM**

**Present:** Sheena Stewart - Chair  
Cllr Uisdean Robertson - Secretary  
Donald E Morrison  
Donald A MacLennan  
Terry Wakeling  
Cllr Andrew Walker  
Joan Ferguson  
Cllr Neil Beaton  
Ragnall Maclain

**Apologies:** Flora MacDonald – Vice Chair  
Ken MacDonald  
Effie Rodger

**Public:** Gus MacAulay, Comann na Mara  
Susy MacAulay  
Iain Stephen Morrison, Am Paipear  
Andrew Turner, N U D C

**1.0 Adoption of Minute:** **Proposed:** Terry Wakeling  
**Seconded:** Donald A MacLennan

**2.0 Statement of Account:**  
Statement of Account is currently in Stornoway for auditing.

**3.0 St Kilda Yacht Race:**  
The Community Council were given a presentation by the Chair of Comann na Mara Gus MacAulay. The event would be held over a three day period, that being 9, 10 and 11 June. The musicians taking part over the three days would be Julie Fowles, Rick Taylor, Ross Ainslie and Dave Anderson. A marquee would be erected at Hammersay House and the Mart in Lochmaddy would be used for artists exhibitions. A curtain sider lorry would be provided by D R

MacLeod Ltd which would display the products of five local food producers. Events such as a Play a Pie and a Pint, Plan B Contemporary Dance Group, Skiff Demonstration, Talks by Island Book Trust, Talks and Exhibitions at Taigh Chearsabhagh and a Hog Roast event in Lochmaddy Hotel. The race itself would start in the Sound of Harris at Pabbay. It is classed as an Oceanic Race and is a 42 mile round trip, round St Kilda and back without stopping. There would be a flotilla event where people could if they wanted, stop in St Kilda. The event has been advertised in yachting magazines and hopefully will become an annual event. It is hoped that BBC Landward would be involved as well. There is to be a prize for the best on ship video taken. The prizegiving would be held on Saturday night with five to six prizes. It was agreed that the Community Council would donate a trophy. A lot of work has gone into organising the event over the last two years and it has brought much needed publicity to the area.

**4.0 Matters Arising:**

**4.1 Challenge Fund** – Permission has been granted for siting a bench in Grimsay. Benches are to be sourced from Maybury Gardens in Stornoway for a cost of £180 each.

**4.2 Defibrillator:** We are still waiting for a decision from Robertsons to see if they are willing to fund a defibrillator in the Bayhead area. Sheena is to contact Ross Cowie reference the other two proposed defibrillators.

**4.3 Cancer Pathway:**

Some more information had been circulated the day of the meeting but it was decided to have a more “in depth” discussion at our next meeting.

**4.4 HHP:**

The members of the public who had raised a concern had declined to be involved further with the heating complaint and the issue of the delay in getting parts for the air source heat pumps. Cllr Walker suggested that in future those who had legitimate concerns should get in touch with the local office.

**4.5 Police:**

PC Kate Hebditch gave an update. There had been 15 incidents locally, two of which were of significance and needed Stornoway C I D help. A new police officer had just started in South Uist and this left the area just one policeman short. A police person with local connections was due to start shortly.

## **5.0 Councillors Report:**

- 5.1 Budget Setting** – The budget setting has now been done and there had been good feedback from the public at large. An extra £4m of Capital Funding was identified with the main part going in to education at £1m and £800,000 into road maintenance.
- 5.2 IJB** – The new Board would be on an official footing from 1 April and had a budget of £58m. A Locality Group was to be formed for the whole of Uist. Locality Groups are quite important and in the Western Isles there would be five such groups. Each area potentially might have different needs and it was important that our own locality made the case strongly for the issues that affected them. The Chief Officer of the IJB Ron Culley would be meeting in Benbecula on 3 May to form the group. He was also due to meet the Community Councils on 4 May.
- 5.3 Tagsa Uibhist** – The service at Rubha Doigheag was suspended mainly due to a lack of referrals. Currently there was only one person booked until the end of August. The issue of minimum wage, living wage and sleepover rates had made the home uneconomic in terms of its current usage. They were now investigating the possibility of day care and also providing a respite at home service.
- 5.4 Taigh Chearsabhagh** – There was to be a meeting shortly to discuss the problem of flood defences at Taigh Chearsabhagh.
- 5.5 Inter Island Air Services** – It was hoped to initiate the procurement process this week to appoint consultants to assist in the review to be undertaken over the summer months. There will be consultation with the communities and other stakeholders who use the service and it was hoped that there would be NHS Western Isles buy-in this time.
- 5.6 Cmal** – In regard to the Uig Triangle infrastructure, Transport Scotland has agreed to establish a multi agency working group. Iain MacKinnon, Director of Technical Services will represent the Comhairle. The inaugural meeting was held in March. Those taking part in the meeting will be the Comhairle as owners of Lochmaddy Pier, Cmal owners of Tarbert pier, Highland Council owners of Uig Pier and Transport Scotland. The next meeting of the group is to be held in Inverness in about two to three weeks time and it is hoped by then matters will be considerably clearer and a firm way forward can be agreed. Again, consultation and engagement with key stakeholders on all aspects of the project, vessel infrastructure improvements, will be part of the delivery process.
- 5.7 Bus Timetables** – There is ongoing amendment of the bus timetables and discussions have taken place within the Comhairle on how best to progress some of the other issues. It is hoped that Technical Services staff will meet with the Community Councils shortly to discuss the amendments that have taken place and see if there are any further bits of work that need to be done.

**6.0 Matters Raised by Members of the Public:**

**6.1 NUDC** – Malcolm Turner gave a report on the projects that they were working on. These included the ongoing work on community wind turbines in North Uist. The An Torc project is progressing well with stage two of the feasibility study starting shortly. Flora and Christine are currently our representatives on the group. There has been no positive development in relation to Spanish Bridge although hopefully something can be done with the proposed formation of a Countryside Trust. There is also ongoing work on a potential collaboration between NUDC and UU.

**6.2 Tractor Rally** – There was to be a tractor rally round North Uist on 28 May. The rally would commence at Hosta and the money raised would go to the Million Miles for Ellie fund. There would be a staged start with tractors leaving in groups of four. There would be “stop off” points along the way. The organisers were still looking for more stewards to help out.

**6.3 Clachan Shop** – An email had been received by the Community Council asking if Clachan Shop was for sale and if there was a potential for a community buy out in these circumstances. It was decided that it would be best to wait initially and see if there was a commercial interest in the shop if it were for sale.

**6.4 Sports Equipment** – The Comhairle had circulated information that the sports equipment they had in their four sports centres was being upgraded and that the surplus equipment was open to offer for any community groups.

**7.0 Correspondence Received:**

**7.1 Ward Funding:** An application was received from UCVO for grass cutting for elderly residents. It was agreed that a sum of £600 would be provided from Ward Funding.

**7.2 Planning Permission** – It was agreed to ratify the request from Taigh Chearsabhaigh that the Community Council would be the applicant for planning permission to erect a polycrub at Taigh Chearsabhaigh as part of the local food production project.

**8.0 Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on Wednesday 25 May in Carinish Hall at 7.30pm.