



**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 CARINISH HALL ON  
WEDNESDAY 25 MAY 2016 AT 7.30PM**

**Present:** Sheena Stewart - Chair  
Cllr Uisdean Robertson - Secretary  
John MacDonald – Treasurer  
Terry Wakeling  
Cllr Andrew Walker  
Cllr Neil Beaton

**Apologies:** Ragnall Maclain  
Joan Ferguson  
Donald E Morrison  
Ken MacDonald  
Effie Rodger  
Iain Stephen Morrison, Am Paipear

**Public:** Kate Hebditch, Police

**1.0 Adoption of Minute:** **Proposed:** Sheena Stewart  
**Seconded:** Terry Wakeling

**2.0 Statement of Account:**  
The audited accounts had been received from the Finance Department today.

The members of the Community Council wished to express their sympathy to the Vice Chair Flora MacDonald on the sad loss of her sister Mary Flora. Chair to send a sympathy card to Flora.

**3.0 Matters Arising:**

**3.1 Challenge Fund** – Benches have been ordered from Maybury Gardens at a cost of £180 each. It was decided to add an additional bench to be situated at the Eagle viewing point at Balelone. It was hoped training would take place for the defibrillators that were to be placed at Clachan

Church and Kallin Harbour. One of the members suggested that defunct telephone boxes could be used within communities to house defibrillators.

**3.2 Cancer Pathway:** Diane MacPherson and the secretary had had a lengthy discussion in Stornoway with the Cancer nurse Gill Chadwick. Currently Gill who is the most experienced cancer nurse does the treatment in the Uist and Barra hospital. The treatment only happens on approximately a monthly basis. Bloods are taken on Monday and sent to Stornoway for checking. Gill then comes down on Wednesday to carry out the treatment. Although the bloods taken for a patient might be okay Gill on the day will also assess how the patient is and possibly not carry out the treatment because she feels that the patient is not in good enough health. Gill went through the process at length and explained the complexities and safety issues that were involved. Not only is the use of injection difficult, the use of pills is also quite difficult. She explained a bit about the treatments that were available in the Western Isles hospital as well and explained that radiotherapy is not available at all in the Western Isles. She explained the rationale behind sending patients to Inverness as opposed to Glasgow which would be more suitable for Uist travel. She indicated that it would be useful to have a trained nurse in the Uist and Barra but because of the intermittent treatment timetable that nurse would not get enough experience and practice. There was a discussion to see if any nurse stays in Uist and Barra could go up to Stornoway on occasion to make sure that her training was up to date.

**Note:** A further discussion with Paul Dundas indicated that a conversation has been had on this very issue.

**3.3 HHP:**  
Cllr Walker explained that there were seven different makes of air source heat pumps which is really not a good situation to be in. One of the older models had had parts to be sourced from Ireland.

**3.4 Ward Funding:**  
It was agreed to give £500 each towards Clachan and Grimsay defibrillators. It was decided to put £1000 Community Council grant for this year towards the defibrillator fund. There was a discussion regarding ward funding that had been awarded to PC Fletcher and also the play park in Lochmaddy which is ring fenced in the Lochmaddy Hall account. The treasurer said that the hall group are currently looking at designs for play park.

**4.0 Police:**  
There had been 14 incidents in the area since the last meeting. One concern had been the issue of sheep worrying. A team from the

mainland had been on island. They had been looking at road traffic issues, seatbelt, mobile phones etc. A few people had been caught as a result. There appears to be a few speedsters still on the go. The issue of the Gaelic spam email was discussed. Also the air rifle amnesty. Fly tipping was raised as an issue and it was said that this should be reported directly to the Police. In general issues of fly tipping are dealt with by SEPA who are based in Stornoway. The proposal brought forward by Ken MacDonald in terms of the cycling event would be best discussed with Sgt Angus Morrison.

## **5.0 IJB:**

The first meeting of the Locality Group was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May in Benbecula. Theona Morrison of the Patient Participation Group had been elected as Chair. There were four community council representatives on the group. It was agreed that minutes should be circulated to the Community Council when they become available. Sheena had also reconvened Third Sector Forum. In terms of the Locality Group it was important to realise that different localities had quite separate needs and this was something that would have to be made clear to the IJB Board. It was also made clear that dates of Locality Group should be adhered to and be made well in advance. Cllr Walker made reference to Taigh a Chridhe Uile Naomh was an excellent model in terms of care. There was some concern expressed as to the model being taken forward in Barra.

## **6.0 Councillors Report:**

An IJB development day had been in Stornoway the day before which had been attended by the Secretary and Cllr Walker.

A meeting of the Uist Economic Task Force had been held in the DI, this had been attended by Cllr Beaton and had been a very good meeting with much more of a focus.

The Deer Management Group had awarded the contract to consultancy to formulate a Deer Management Plan. Meetings with the communities were planned for the beginning of July and these would be advertised in the local press.

The issue of bus timetables was still on the agenda and Helen MacKenzie and David Smart were due to hold a public meeting in Liniclate School on 7<sup>th</sup> June. Councillors had agreed to meet with Helen on 6<sup>th</sup> June when they were up in Stornoway.

There was a discussion around the issue of Lochmaddy pier and its untidy state. Catherine MacLeod had planted up the troughs for Calmac, the bench needed painting and weed spraying needed to be done. This issue had been discussed with Technical Services and the

auditors were due to do an inspection of all the piers in the Western Isles. A query was made in relation to the monies given to Comann na Mara for the troughs previously. It appears that this monies has not been used for that purpose at this time. It was decided that money currently ring fenced in the account for planters could be used for the planter at the pier. The secretary stated that we needed to keep an eye on the future works at Lochmaddy and the issue of the new ferry and to that end would invite Kevin Hobbs, CMal to meet with the Community Council.

The issue of flood defence at Taigh Chearsabhagh was raised and all three councillors had attended a presentation given by Robert Fraser on what needed to be done.

The issue of the empty police house at Lochmaddy was raised. The house which is next to the bank has been empty for approximately a year and if it was brought back into use would be of interest to local families who are looking for accommodation. The secretary agreed to write to Gordon MacLeod on this issue.

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

**Uist Laundry** – Concern was expressed that Uist Laundry was closing down and the impact that would have on the community particularly those who used it for holiday lets and also Calmac who were a heavy user of the service. Currently it appears that a business plan is being prepared by a group who want to take it over as a soft play area for children.

**8.0 Correspondence Received:**

No correspondence received.

**9.0 Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on Monday 28 June in Lochmaddy Hall at 7.30pm.