



**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 LOCHMADDY HALL ON  
MONDAY 11 JULY 2016 AT 7.30PM**

**Present:** Sheena Stewart - Chair  
Flora MacDonald - Vice Chair  
John MacDonald – Treasurer  
Cllr Uisdean Robertson – Secretary  
Effie Rodger  
D A MacLennan  
Terry Wakeling  
Cllr Neil Beaton  
Ken MacDonald  
Donald E Morrison

**Apologies:** Joan Ferguson

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

**2.0 Statement of Account:**

The Treasurer presented the account and there was discussion on some of the ring fenced items.

**1. Planters:-** There was uncertainty where all the planters were situated but it was suggested that Catherine MacLeod should be asked to plant them up next year. She had done the one at Lochmaddy pier and John had painted bench and cut grass.

**2. Challenge Fund:-** It was agreed that Alasdair MacDonald would do the work in Kilmuir old graveyard. Benches had been ordered from Maybury Gardens but there was no need now for one at the Eagle viewpoint. It was suggested that the RSPB building at Goular would be the best site for the extra bench. Ragnall had offered to install benches when they arrived.

**3.0 Matters Arising:**

**3.1 Defibrillators** – Training sessions were due to take place in Grimsay and Clachan. Eight trainers were coming down from LuckyToBeHere Eilean Siar branch in Lewis to do training. If we could raise a further £500 we could purchase another defibrillator. It was important to situate one in Lochportain which is quite isolated. Another one would be useful at Baranald Bird Reserve which had significant footfall from spring to autumn.

Action: Donald Angie to approach Marine Harvest regarding Lochportain. Secretary to approach George Campbell RSPB, regarding Goular.

**3.2 Integrated Joint Board:** The next locality group meeting was to be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August in Benbecula.

**3.3 Deer Management Group:**

The public meeting at Claddach Kirkibost had been poorly attended which is disappointing bearing in mind the complaints about numbers of deer. However the consultant met with a number of interested people on a one to one basis and progress is being made

**3.4 Bus Timetables:**

There was due to be further discussions held locally by the Comhairle later on in the year

**3.5 Lochmaddy Pier:**

Internal Audit from the Comhairle had carried out an inspection at the pier. A report of issues observed had gone to Technical Services and a report would be going to Audit and Scrutiny Committee in September

**3.6 HHP House, Lochmaddy:**

A disappointing response had been received from Gordon MacLeod, Police Scotland stating that they would be retaining the house for police use

Action: Invite Gordon MacLeod to next meeting.

**4.0 Councillors Report:**

**a. EU Presentation:-** Councillors had attended a VC presentation on the potential implications of leaving Europe on the Outer Hebrides.

**b. Uist Economic Task Force:-** A good discussion on a number of issues had taken place at the meeting. Concern was expressed on the forthcoming SPA designation. The ten year moratorium advocated by the Comhairle was supported and particularly until the position in Europe becomes clearer.

**c. Laundry:-** The laundry in Benbecula was now closed and was a huge loss to hotels, guest houses and B and B's in Uist. Mention was

made that a business in Lewis was willing to provide a service if there was sufficient demand.

**d. Mobile Phone:-** There was an opportunity for community groups to apply for equipment that would give a better mobile phone signal. It was also felt that we needed to get an update on mobile phone provision in Uist bearing in mind that the signal appears to have got worse.

**e. Broadband:-** The Association of Community Councils had discussed the issue of Broadband with Alasdair Allan. This relates to the possible loss of European funding on the rolling out of fibre in Uist.

**f. CMal:-** It was hoped that the new Chief Executive of CMal would make a visit to North Uist to discuss further the new ferry design and where the work was currently.

**g. Benbecula/Stornoway flights:-** A consultation was to take place which would inform the new contract beginning April 2017. It was important that the community engaged with this bearing in mind the difficulties faced particularly by those with health related appointments off island.

#### **5.0 Matters Raised by Members of the Public:**

**Sheep** – Concern was expressed on the problem of sheep and lambs being on the road between fences and being a road hazard. We could discuss this with the Police at the next meeting.

**D R MacLeod Yard** – It was suggested that a sign e.g works entrance should be erected before the corner at the yard as the area was quite blind.

**Locheport Road End** – Concern was expressed that it was difficult to turn at the road end because of the number of cars parked there. There was also a deer fence erected which is quite near the road and further impedes parking.

Action: Secretary to speak to Donnie Johnson.

#### **6.0 Correspondence Received:**

**Ward Funding** – It was agreed that £1000 be allocated to students who are taking a gap year from university volunteering abroad. Both students would be asked to give a presentation to Community Council when they came back.

**An Torc** – It was agreed to nominate John MacDonald as a representative of North Uist Community Council on the group. Flora was already on the group and was happy to continue.

Action – Invite Alasdair MacLeod to our next meeting.

**7.0** **Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on Monday 29 August in Taigh Sgìre Sholais at 7.30pm.