



North Uist Community Council
Comhairle Coimhearsnachd Uibhist a Tuath

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**NORTH UIST COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN HOSTA HALL ON
MONDAY 3 OCTOBER 2016 AT 7.30PM**

Present: Sheena Stewart - Chair
Flora MacDonald – Vice chair
Cllr Uisdean Robertson – Secretary
Effie Rodger
D A MacLennan
Joan Ferguson
Terry Wakeling
Cllr Neil Beaton

Apologies: Ragnall Maclain
Donald E Morrison
Cllr Andrew Walker (attending Berneray Community
Council)
P C Kate Hebditch

Public: PC Ross McClenaghan

1.0 Adoption of Minute:

With the amendment that Terry Wakeling was present at the last meeting, the minutes were agreed.

Proposed: Terry Wakeling

Seconded: D A MacLennan

2.0 Statement of Account:

As the Treasurer was unable to attend a Statement of Account was not circulated.

3.0 Matters Arising:

3.1 Defibrillators – Signage had been received. There is a cost of £140 in installing the equipment and a spur was needed for the Goular installation. It was felt that it would be useful to have a defibrillator at the Trianaid Care Home. It was agreed that we would keep trying to install as many defibrillators as we could in all areas on North Uist.

3.2 Bus Timetables:

Two meetings had been held to consult on the winter timetable. The meeting in Liniclate was attended by approximately twenty people and the one in Lochmaddy by one person. Bus operators are liaising well with the public. They have also been very flexible in leaving bookings until 9am on day of travel for booking services for 'on request' route's. The feeling was that the timetables were overly complex and that it would be useful if they were more readable. The operators said that they had understood this and were producing more user friendly timetables. For the next consultation on the summer timetable, earlier engagement would need to happen.

3.3 Benbecula/Stornoway Flights:

The Comhairle are currently out to tender for the Benbecula/Stornoway service due to commence in April 2017. As the budget has been capped, we will have to wait and see what interest is shown by airlines, and what tender prices are received.

3.4 D R MacLeod Yard:

The sign has still not been erected and the Secretary will get in touch with Technical Services.

3.5 Berneray Slipway:

There is still a huge problem with rat infestation at slipway and Cllr Walker has written the Technical Services Department regarding concern's raised. This is an ongoing problem which is being chased up quite actively.

3.6

Flooding:

This is still problematic at Margaret MacLennan's house and also at Donald MacDonald's house near Mullach Mor, Sollas. The Secretary will discuss further with Technical Services.

4.0

Police Report:

There is a job advert out currently for a permanent post for an officer to be based in Lochmaddy. This would be to replace Kate who is here on a temporary basis. There has been very little to report currently in terms of incidents in North Uist. In relation to the complaint about stray sheep on the main road, a comprehensive response from Sgt Angus Morrison had been circulated to all members.

5.0

5.1

Councillors Report:

Broadband: BT and HIE had recently given a presentation on Broadband at the Comhairle. Concern regarding the upgrade of the Bayhead exchange had been raised again. There appears to be no concrete plans currently to solve the problem in this particular area. We will need to keep pressure on this, as the bulk of the North Uist

5.2 population live round the west side.

5.3 **Spaceport:** It appears that the only suitable site for a vertical take-off facility is in North Uist. The Comhairle and HIE have both committed £70,000 each to take forward this project.

5.4 **Street Lighting:** The problem of maintenance of street lights is an ongoing one. Concern was expressed that since the reporting system has been centralised to Stornoway, complaints were not being actioned timeously. It would be better if the system were managed from Balivanich.

5.5 **Lochmaddy Slaughterhouse:** There has been a SEPA objection to the planning application on the derogation to bury waste on site. Friday will be the close period for any further objections. The issue will be discussed at the Environmental and Protective Services committee next week.

6.0 **Lochmaddy Pier:** CMAL will be taking over the running of the contract for the capital works at Lochmaddy pier in advance of the new ferry arriving. It was agreed that the Secretary write Calmac commending the crew of the Hebrides on their management of the incident at Lochmaddy pier recently.

6.1

Matters Raised by Members of the Public:

6.2 **Liniclate School** – A request had come in asking about the cost to the Council of the current management structure at the school. Secretary to discuss with Education.

6.3 **An Torc** –There was a question reference the make-up of the committee and the co-opting of people on to the An Torc Board. There was also a query reference the minutes of the meetings.

6.4 **NUCC meetings** – It was agreed that we need to ensure that minutes are circulated to all community venues if possible. Joan has been designated to phone media on dates, times and venues of Community Council meetings.

6.5 **Mobile phones** – The lack of mobile phone signal in certain areas continues to be of major concern. This is an issue that the Community Council have consistently raised with MP and MSP. We accept that they do put a lot of pressure on the mobile phone providers to resolve this problem but it is of importance that the infrastructure is improved. It was suggested that community buildings should have the Sure Signal infrastructure in place in their buildings to ensure that people get a good mobile phone signal.

Ward Funding – Ward funding needs to be committed by the end of January. It was agreed that Urachadh Uibhist be awarded £500 from each Councillor towards the purchase of a photocopier.

6.6

Correspondence Received:

There was no correspondence received.

7.0

Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be on Monday 14 November in Carinish Hall at 7.30pm.