



# North Uist Community Council

## Comhairle Coimhearsnachd Uibhist a Tuath

**Secretary :** Uisdean Robertson  
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### **NORTH UIST COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN CARINISH HALL ON MONDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2016 AT 7.30PM**

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

**Apologies:** Cllr Neil Beaton  
Ragnall Maclain  
Effie Rodger  
Terry Wakeling

**Public:** Iain Morrison  
David Newman  
Iain S Morrison, Am Paipear

#### **1.0 Adoption of Minute:**

**Proposed:** Donald A MacLennan  
**Seconded:** Joan Ferguson

#### **2.0 Statement of Account:**

Treasurer circulated a copy of the Statement. Secretary to check with Finance the payment due to the two Uist students doing an overseas gap year placement.

#### **3.0 Matters Arising:**

##### **3.1 Defibrillators**

A request had come in from the Lochportain community asking that the defibrillator be installed in the unused telephone kiosk in the area. As a community group needed to do the application to BT it was agreed that the Community Council would do that. The defibrillator needs to be checked every week so the community will need to take over that responsibility. John will check with Calum A MacDonald, Manager of

Marine Harvest at the Lochportain site to ask whether they will part fund the defibrillator.

**3.2 Benbecula/Stornoway Flights:**

The Friday afternoon flight has now been reinstated.

**3.3 D R MacLeod Yard:**

Signage is still not in place.

***Secretary will get in touch with Technical Services.***

**3.4 Broadband:**

Work has now progressed in several exchange areas with the first cabinets erected, some of which will be in service by end December 2016. Eriskay is already in service and cabinets are installed in Carnan, Lochport, Grogarry and Sollas exchange areas. Engineering planning stages are in progress for Benbecula with planning applications for several cabinets approved. Planning for coverage in Lochboisdale and Berneray exchange areas are in progress.

Additional funds have come back into the contract because of strong take-up of services, and also from efficiencies in BT delivery. This is facilitating expansion of reach within the current exchange areas.

The planned second phase is now replaced with the Scottish Government's commitment that 100% of premises in Scotland will have access to superfast broadband by 2021. An Open Market Review will identify everyone who can't access superfast speeds, including those already part of the fibre network who are receiving less than 30Mbps download. From this, the Scottish Government will identify an 'intervention' area where additional investment could be used to extend services.

**Mobile:**

Planning applications have been approved or are in progress for 4G upgrades for all existing mobile masts in Uist with services planned to be in place from mid to end 2017.

Site acquisition for new mobile sites in Uist are in progress and operators aspire for completion by end 2017.

Both HIE and Scottish Government are working closely with the industry through a Mobile Action Plan [www.gov.scot/Resource/0050/00501359.pdf](http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0050/00501359.pdf) published earlier this summer. The Plan aims to improve and increase coverage across Scotland and includes an infill programme to extend coverage into rural areas not served by commercial rollout. Scottish Government intend to announce proposals for a Mobile Infill Programme by Spring 2017.

### **3.5 Street Lighting:**

Street lighting maintenance in Uist and Barra is dealt with in the same manner as in Lewis and Harris. There is a 4 weekly cycle of maintenance, during winter months, in each of the following areas: North Uist, Benbecula, South Uist and Barra. Any faults reported are fixed within this 4 weekly cycle. In addition to reported faults a survey visit is undertaken by Technical Services officers in Uist in advance of the cyclical visit to identify un-reported faults.

Barra was visited in week commencing 3 October and all reported and observed faults were rectified. The Benbecula area had 3 reported faults, which should by now be fixed. The South Uist area had 4 reported faults, which should have been fixed in week commencing 17 October, together with any additional observed faults. The North Uist area had no reported faults.

There may therefore be times in which it could take up to 4 weeks to resolve a fault, however where these are classed as non-emergency repairs it would be inefficient to react to each fault. There is a 24hr standby service operated for emergency faults.

### **3.6 Lochmaddy Slaughterhouse:**

The burying of slaughterhouse waste on site was approved at Committee.

### **3.7 Lochmaddy Pier:**

CMal have now a formal agreement in place with the Comhairle, and will be acting as Project Managers for the site at Tarbert (Harris) and Lochmaddy.

At Uig (Highland Council) will be in control of their own port improvements.

However CMal, at the request, of Transport Scotland will have an overseeing and report role to ensure that each element remains on track.

### **4.0 CPP Locality Plan North Uist and Benbecula –**

Using the Community Profiling Tool developed by the Improvement Service, Health Profiles, Office of National Statistics (ONS) data and local knowledge it was recommended that OHCPP focus on two geographical areas which are experiencing poorer outcomes than the rest of the Outer Hebrides.

The Intermediate data zones (IDZ) of Stornoway West and Benbecula and North Uist have been identified as the areas locally experiencing poorer outcomes, and it was therefore recommended that the OHCPP work with these communities to develop locality plans in the first instance. Community engagement will be undertaken with the chosen

localities to determine the priorities for their plan.

David Newman, Sustainable Uist gave us an update on a plan that had been done in Tiree, an area with similar economic and demographic challenges.

#### **5.0 Police Report :**

There was no police presence.

#### **6.0 Councillors Report:**

##### **6.1 Member Officer Working Group**

Andrew had attended a meeting to discuss constitutional documents.

##### **6.2 Harris Seminar**

Two day seminar was to be held in Harris to discuss the issue of population migration within the Outer Hebrides.

##### **6.3 Dentistry**

There was to be an options appraisal held on the 29<sup>th</sup> November. This included patients, dental staff, Third Sector and Community Council representation. The option appraisal would focus on the non financial element of the appraisal. There should be public consultation in January on the preferred option. The Locality Group was due to meet on Thursday.

##### **6.4 Bayhead Area**

A concern was expressed by Cllr Beaton in relation to the space in the school that was promised for GPs to consult.

***Secretary will speak to Director of Education.***

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

##### **7.1 Highland Cattle**

Complaints were received that Highland Cattle on the main road in Carinish were a hazard.

***The issue is to be raised with Police and Kenny MacLeod, Animal Health.***

##### **7.2 Baleshare Causeway**

It was suggested that white lining along the edge of both sides of the causeway would be of help in relation to road safety. In heavy rain it appears that the causeway is holding a large volume of water on the road surface.

***Secretary will discuss with Technical Services.***

##### **7.3 Food Banks**

We are informed that all supplies currently come from Stornoway and that a small stock is kept in Uist. Cllr Walker stated that HHP deliver food parcels and also in discussion with Alasdair Allan that there appeared to be a direct correlation between food banks and welfare

reform. The CAB in Uist work currently with the Trusell Trust who do have a base in Stornoway. The Chair said that through UCVO she would start a conversation with other interested parties.

**7.4 Clachan War Memorial**

Concern was expressed about the mess sheep make at the gate leading into the War Memorial. It was suggested that the gate should be moved further down the access.

***Secretary will speak to the Township Clerk.***

**8.0 Correspondence Received**

**8.1 Ward Funding**

It was agreed to give North Uist Agricultural Society £300 towards the children's party at Hosta Hall. The party normally attracts approximately 100 children. A request had been received seeking £1000 ward funding towards the An Torc project. After much debate it was decided to invite the Chair of An Torc to the next meeting to give more information on the project.

**8.2 Co-opting Members**

It was suggested that members give some thought to inviting additional members on to the Community Councils. It was felt to be beneficial if they could be on a geographic basis.

**9.0 Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on Monday 12 December in Lochmaddy Hall at 7.30pm.