



North Uist Community Council Comhairle Coimhearsnachd Uibhist a Tuath

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NORTH UIST COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN TAIGH SGIRE SHOLAIS ON MONDAY 9 JANUARY 2017 AT 7.30PM

Present: Sheena Stewart - Chair
Flora MacDonald – Vice chair
Cllr Uisdean Robertson – Secretary
Donald A MacLennan
Terry Wakeling
Ken MacDonald
Donald E Morrison
Effie Rodger
Iain Morrison
Joan Ferguson
Jessie Morrison

Apologies: Cllr Andrew Walker
Cllr Neil Beaton
John MacDonald
Sgt Angus Morrison, Police

Public: Mick Bull
Kathryn Wilkie
Duncan Aitken
John Aitken
Archie MacCorquodale
Alison Cropper

1.0 Adoption of Minute:

Proposed: Terry Wakeling
Seconded: Ken MacDonald

2.0 Statement of Account:

There was no account circulated as Treasurer was unable to attend meeting. However there has been little movement in the account since the last meeting.

3.0 Bus Consultation

The North Uist operators said the timetable was working well with no complaints being received. The connections between North and South

are also now working well. Bookable services are proving extremely useful and public appear to be happy with the service. The Berneray ferry timetable causes some problems because the timetable is constantly changing due to low water restrictions on the ferry. Information from the operator is attached to the minute.

Action: Secretary to speak to Director of Technical Services regarding increasing fuel costs.

4.0 Matters Arising:

4.1 Defibrillators

Goular campsite still waiting connection by electrician. Marine Harvest will fund purchase of defibrillator but would prefer it at their own site in Lochportain.

4.2 Dentistry:

A new report on dentistry provision in Uist is to be discussed at the next meeting of the Integrated Joint Board on the 16th February.

4.3 Bayhead Area Surgery Provision:

It has been agreed that a space in the school will be available soon every second Thursday.

4.4 Food Banks:

A meeting is to be held on Wednesday 15th February.

4.5 Co Opting Members:

It was agreed to ratify the co-option of Jessie Morrison, Claddach Kirkibost and Iain Morrison, Carinish to the Community Council.

4.6 Lochmaddy Bank of Scotland:

It was suggested that the notice on the bank indicating closure due to staff illness would be better displayed as staff shortage.

4.7 Post Office:

Taigh Chearsabhagh have now been given a six month contract extension to provide a post office service in Taigh Chearsabhagh.

4.8 Benbecula Airport Ambulift:

Concern is still being expressed about the method of lifting patients on and off the plane in Benbecula.

Action: Secretary to invite Roddy MacKay to the next meeting.

5.0 Police Report:

Apologies were given by Sgt Morrison as they were unable to attend because they had someone in custody. He did provide a brief verbal report, in it he said that a person had been apprehended over a theft that had taken place. Brief detail was also given about the drugs raid in Locheynort. There was also an issue raised by him in relation to the use of cannabis. Members did express concern about the issue raised in the press recently regarding the theft of heating oil from tanks at houses. The advice from Police is to make sure that the tank is well secured. The issue of the Police house in Lochmaddy was also raised again and the Secretary said that he would raise it with Chief Superintendent Philip MacRae.

6.0 Councillors Report:

The Secretary was following up the matter of the project management of Lochmaddy pier works with CMal. The contract for engineering design has been awarded to Wallace Stone. It is hoped to have a meeting with both CMal's Senior Civil Engineer and Wallace Stone as soon as possible.

Benbecula/Stornoway PSO: Tenders were now with the Comhairle and a report will be coming to members on the 7th February regarding the three options that were in the contract.

7.0 Matters Raised by Members of the Public:

7.1 Fly Tipping

Concern was expressed about fly tipping on Malaclate machair. It was said that the first port of call should be the Township Clerk followed by a complaint to SEPA in Stornoway. The Secretary indicated that he had had an email from Waste Aware based at Market Stance. He had made the office aware of the meeting in Sollas but had had no response as yet. One of the members also raised the issue of bags being dumped beside the road between Carinish and Claddach Carinish. This had happened a few times. Mention was also made about old fences that were not being cleared away and it was also disappointing that a piece of fence knocked down by a Royal Mail van at Knockquien had not been repaired.

7.2 Offlets

A query was raised about the amount of water that is lying on the roads and it was stated that it would be useful if more offlets were done to release that water.

7.3 Modern Apprenticeships

It was noted that 17 Modern Apprenticeships had commenced in Lewis and it appears that no applications came from Uist. The Comhairle say that they had made every effort to promote these apprenticeships in Uist. They stated however that there would be a new round in February and hopefully that would get some response. Questions

were asked if the apprenticeships were promoted well enough. Kenny MacDonald, Liniclate School Depute Head stated that they had been promoted within the school, but there had been no interest from pupils.

7.4 Lionacleit School Canteen

Concern was expressed that the ladies in the canteen were being asked to work to term time only. Secretary indicated that he would look into this.

7.5 West Camp

A query was raised in relation to the loss of jobs if West Camp was downgraded. Secretary said that he had had discussion with the Development Department on this and more information had been requested from both Qinetiq and MOD.

8.0 Correspondence Received

8.1 Ward Funding

Andrew Ross, Development Worker with NUDC had asked if ward funding would be available to help with painting the rooms at the Claddach Kirkibost Centre that were now available for rent. The big room was going to be taken over for use as a gym. It was agreed to award £1000 of ward funding to this project.

9.0 Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be on Monday 13 February in Hosta Hall at 7.30pm.

Note: Secretary was asked to send Cllr Walker a Get Well Soon card.