



# 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 HOSTA HALL ON MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2017 AT 7.30PM**

**Present:** Sheena Stewart - Chair  
Flora MacDonald – Vice chair  
Cllr Uisdean Robertson – Secretary  
John MacDonald – Treasurer  
Terry Wakeling  
Cllr Andrew Walker  
Iain Morrison  
Joan Ferguson

**Apologies:** D E Morrison  
Effie Rodger  
Jessie Morrison  
D A MacLennan  
Cllr Neil Beaton

**Public:** George MacDonald  
P C Billy Sloan

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

**Proposed:** Terry Wakeling  
**Seconded:** Joan Ferguson

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

Statement was circulated by the Treasurer. The account is in a fairly healthy state. £300 had been received from ward funding towards the salt bin in Lochmaddy. It was decided that the planters that were situated locally should be replanted if possible at the beginning of the year. It would be good if plants could be sourced locally. It was decided to get quotes for grass cutting at the Clachan War Memorial.

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

##### **3.1 Defibrillators**

The Goular site has now been connected and there is one situated outside on the entrance wall at Sgoil Uibhist a Tuath. Loch Duart have indicated that they would be willing to fund a defibrillator but needed a request in writing from the Community Council. There was some

discussion about the various sites that still needed provision such as Lochport, Baleshare, Lochportain and possibly Trianaid Care Home.

### **3.2 Dentistry:**

The report on dentistry provision was deferred again and will come to the IJB on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March for a final decision.

### **3.3 Benbecula Airport Ambulift:**

The Community Council are still keen to get some resolution to the situation of lifting patients on and off the plane in Benbecula.

### **3.4 Fly Tipping:**

In terms of the items dumped on Malaclate machair, it was decided to ask the Comhairle if they could uplift said items.

### **3.5 Offlets:**

The Comhairle have recently done quite a lot of work on forming offlets in areas where water was lying. However some work still needs to be done on Baleshare causeway. Cllr Walker had met with Angus MacDonald on site and the Secretary and Joan had walked the length of the causeway to ascertain where the various problems were. The Comhairle are proposing to do some work on the large boulders that have moved from their position on the banked side of the causeway.

### **3.6 West Camp:**

Calum Iain MacIver, Director of Development was due to meet Qinetiq on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

### **4.0 Police Report:**

The Community Council welcomed PC Billy Sloan to his first meeting of the Community Council. PC Sloan had moved with his wife from Glasgow three weeks ago to a permanent posting in Lochmaddy. He had been on the police in Glasgow for 15 years. He was confident that Lochmaddy would remain operational for the foreseeable future. Sgt Angus Morrison was still occupying the flat but would be moving shortly. The Community Council are concerned as to what the Police propose to do with the flat especially seeing they are currently occupying an HHP property. In his first report PC Sloan said that there had been virtually no crime reported during his three weeks in the job. He referred to previous reports, they had no positive lines of enquiry reference the heating oil theft and there was a bit of dubiety of what had actually been stolen. He also referred to the spate of thefts from honesty boxes. A homeless person from the north of England had been apprehended.

## **5.0 Councillors Report:**

The Scottish Government had given the Comhairle an extra £990k, of that £475k was going to the IJB and another £475k was going to be held in reserves. There was also an agreement to do some work on the video conferencing facility between Benbecula and Stornoway.

Loganair were re-introducing five day flights from the beginning of April. There would only be one afternoon rotation on Monday and Friday but two rotations on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

The Comhairle have agreed to increase council tax by 3%.

In relation to the Uist and Barra hospital a wish was expressed that it would be more appropriate for Griminish medical practice to move to the hospital site rather than dentistry being stationed within the hospital. It was felt that this was a much more natural fit. Cllr Walker said that bed numbers in the hospital have reduced from 29 down to 15.

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

### **6.1 Gym, Claddach Kirkibost**

A query was raised in relation to the gym not being manned when in use. However it was said that each person is given a full induction by a qualified trainer. To get access to the premises each person is given a pin number. Secretary said he would query the manning issue with the Comhairle's Sport and Health team.

### **6.2 Trumisgarry**

The small causeway beyond Trumisgarry road end has a very bad dip in it, which needs to be addressed.

### **6.3 Trianaid**

There was a discussion regarding provision of care for the elderly in North Uist. Although Trianaid was seen as a very comfortable homely place it was felt that it was not appropriate that residents be charged the same as residents in homes such as Sacred Heart and Harris House that had better and more roomy facilities. The Comhairle have plans in the next capital programme to build two new homes in Stornoway and it was felt that North Uist should be making a case for new care home provision as well.

## **7.0 Correspondence Received**

A thank you letter had been received from Project Trust.

It was agreed to make the following ward funding approvals:

Feis Tir an Eorna	£500
North Uist Amateur Athletics Club	£500
North Uist United Juniors	£500
Taigh Sgìre Sholais	£500

The Community Council were also informed at this point that the Tractor Rally was to take place on May 27<sup>th</sup> and proceeds would go to Motor Neurone Disease Association.

**8.0 Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on Monday 13 March in Carinish Hall at 7.30pm.