



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 CARINISH HALL ON MONDAY 13 MARCH 2017 AT 7.30PM

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

Apologies: Iain Morrison
Effie Rodger
Jessie Morrison
Terry Wakeling
Joan Ferguson
Ragnall Maclain
P C Sloan (report emailed)

1.0 Adoption of Minute:

Proposed: John MacDonald
Seconded: Flora MacDonald

2.0 Statement of Account:

Statement was circulated to all members and our account is in a very healthy state. £1760 Challenge Fund has to be transferred to Comann Eachdraidh Uibhist a Tuath. Five benches have been ordered for Grimsay, Cleitral, Lochportain and two for Show Committee. There is a small amount left to do some planting in the planters that are still left in fair condition.

Members to check where planters are situated.

3.0 Matters Arising:

3.1 Defibrillators

Loch Duart have now fitted a defibrillator at Lochmaddy Harbour. Some work still needs to be done to fill the gaps of provision in North Uist.

3.2 Benbecula Airport Ambulift:

Loganair are committed to replace the existing method with a gangway type access. These are currently being trialled and are proving successful.

3.3 Fly Tipping:

Secretary will speak to SEPA regarding the dumping on Malaclete machair and also the incidence of dumping on the roadside particularly on the two way stretch in Carinish.

3.4 Baleshare Causeway:

The Director of Technical Services is to visit Baleshare Causeway next time he is in Uist.

3.5 West Camp:

There was a meeting held in relation to West Camp but no detail on the discussion is available.

4.0 Lochmaddy Harbour Redevelopment:

There are to be two meetings in Lochmaddy on the 5th April. The meetings are to be led by Cmal and attended by the Comhairle as owners of the pier and also Calmac, the ferry operator. Cmal were project managing the proposed works in Lochmaddy for the Comhairle. At the meeting they would be showing plans for the work in Uig (owned by Highland Council) and Tarbert (owned by Cmal). Over the last few decades significant expenditure had been done to ports up and down the West Coast and also in the Northern Isles. A sum of £20 million had recently been invested in Gourrock. It was hoped that similar investment would be done in Lochmaddy. It is however important that people would turn up at these meetings and show an interest. A reliable ferry and good harbour infrastructure is critical to the economy of Uist.

5.0 Police Report:

In North Uist there have been 15 Incidents that have required Police attendance. These are all of a relatively minor nature ranging from a disturbance caused by a male in a licensed premises to Livestock being hit by a vehicle on the roadway. Nothing that should be of great concern to the wider public or community.

There has recently been a national Police Service of Scotland

campaign highlighting the increase of penalty for use of a handheld telephone whilst driving.

The penalty has increased as off the 1st March to 6 penalty points and a £200 fine.

Prior to the change the Police had carried out extra patrols in order to detect offenders with a view to educating them of the increased penalty, this coincided with a national media campaign.

Subsequently there will be an enforcement phase in an attempt to detect drivers who persist in using their phones whilst driving.

Hopefully people will take heed of the campaign and refrain from using their phones.

6.0 Councillors Report:

There was a wide ranging discussion on a number of still to be resolved matters.

Dentistry – the ongoing saga continues.

Broadband – no firm answers to various issues as yet.

U & B Hospital – concern still being expressed as to what services may be lost from hospital if dentistry moves into premises.

Mental Health – consultation meeting to be held shortly.

Five day flights – unhappiness that the Tues, Wed and Thursday morning flights did not go on directly to Inverness from Stornoway

7.0 Matters Raised by Members of the Public:

7.1 Kallin Ice Plant

A request was made as to what the timeline was to have the plant advertised for sale.

7.2 Lochportain

A number of points were raised in relation to the Lochportain

a) Seating had been much reduced following the works last year to the boat.

b) Plastic cups from the vending machine were made of very thin plastic and could easily burn someone if not handled carefully.

c) It appears that two crew members were needed to man the lift. Did this mean that extra crew were needed to ensure boat kept to timetable.

7.3 Sgoil Lionacleit

Congratulations was expressed to Sgoil Lionacleit for the success of the Pipe Band at the National Schools Championships. Also to the

athletes who did so well at the mainland meet and the pupils from the STEM club who won 1st prize in the construct-a-crane competition at the Young Engineers and Science Club event in Inverness.

7.4 Roads

A complaint was received in relation to the works being carried out for Scottish Water. There was a significant amount of mud being left on the road, and had been particularly bad at Maclain's quarry.

The road cutting at John MacKenzie's, Carinish needed seen too as well. This had been during the Broadband works. Some of the cable laying works on the road verges had closed offlets leading to water pooling on the road.

8.0 Correspondence Received

An application for funding was received from Craigard. It was agreed to award £500.

Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be on Monday 24 April in Lochmaddy Hall at 7.30pm.