



North Uist Community Council

Comhairle Coimhearsnachd Uibhist a Tuath

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NORTH UIST COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN TAIGH SGIRE SHOLAIS ON MONDAY 29 MAY 2017 AT 7.30PM

Present: Sheena Stewart - Chair
Cllr Uisdean Robertson – Secretary
Flora MacDonald – Vice Chair
Donald E Morrison
Donald A MacLennan
Iain Morrison
Jessie Morrison
Ken MacDonald
Ragnall Maclain
Effie Rodger
Cllr Iain M MacLeod
Cllr Roddy MacKay

Apologies: Terry Wakeling
Joan Ferguson
John MacDonald

Public: David Newman

Sheena Stewart, Chair wished to express the sympathy of our community to the Barra community on their recent tragic news.

It was agreed to send a letter to both Northbay and Castlebay Community Councils expressing our heartfelt sympathy and support.

1.0 Adoption of Minute:

Proposed: Ken MacDonald

Seconded: Donald A MacLennan

- 2.0 Statement of Account:**
The accounts have now been audited and were ready to be picked up by the Secretary this week.
- 3.0 Sealladh Hiort Project:**
David Newman of Sealladh Hiort gave a brief on the Sealladh Hiort Project which is attached. The group were asking that the Community Council apply for planning permission for the proposed centre. The Community Council are able to get a 50% discount on the planning fee. The Community Council agreed to this request.
- 4.0 Matters Arising:**
- 4.1 Defibrillators:**
More training is to be sorted out shortly. The Chair to contact Lucky 2BHere.
- 4.2 West Camp:**
A redundancy notice has been issued to the Facilities Manager. The facility is due to be handed back by Qinetiq to the MOD by 1st November. This puts 28 full and part time jobs at risk. Two buildings will be left for use with 120 bed spaces. Clearly, some staff will be needed but no idea what the current plans are. A new camp is being built out at St Kilda, which has less capacity, so potentially staff numbers could reduce there as well. This is an issue that the Uist Economic Task Force should be dealing with. Cllr Iain A MacNeil and Cllr Iain M MacLeod are representatives on the group which will be chaired by Cllr Donald Crichton, Chair of Sustainable Development Committee. A £60m investment has been made in Rangehead and a further £30m investment in St Kilda. This clearly makes the range more secure but the improved technology could mean job losses. Concern was also expressed that the cross runway at Benbecula airport could be shut down once it needed more investment.
- 4.3 M V Lochportain:**
As well as the issues raised at the last meeting there appears to be significant problems with the lack of adequate seating. People on occasion have had to sit on the floor and this is clearly not an acceptable practice.
The Secretary to contact Calmac to raise this issue.
- 4.4 Apprenticeships:**
There are applicants in for all the apprenticeships offered by Qinetiq and the process is still ongoing. The road shows organised for the Modern Apprentices have been delayed for a

couple of weeks. Concern was expressed that some of them were Gaelic essential and it was felt that it would best if they were down as desirable rather than essential.

Community Meals:

4.5

Cross Stores in Ness are now distributing MacLean's meals in their own area and there is currently a conversation with Trust Housing as well, who might be able to help out with distribution.

Uist and Barra Food Bank:

4.6

The Working Group would be meeting on the 7th June and the Trussell Trust will be assisting in the process.

Police Report:

5.0

No Police presence.

Councillors Report:

6.0

The councillors had been in Stornoway for induction training. The Ward Councillors had managed to get positions on the various committees and outside bodies. The issue of the move in terms of dental provision is still ongoing and there is no indication as to the Scottish Health Council's recommendations at this point. Concern had also been expressed by the nurses about their move from the clinic in Balivanich to the Council Offices. They were particularly worried about the privacy and clinical issues as well as how the consultation had been managed.

Matters Raised by Members of the Public:

7.0

Fairy Knoll

7.1

This area had been used by the Fibre Optic contactors who had left a lot of debris on the site. It appears others are now dumping there.

Secretary will contact SEPA.

Muilean nan Geirr

7.2

It appears that the work being done by both MacInnes Bros and the contractors laying the fibre optic cable has meant that in this area the cable is still lying on top of the ground. This needs to be sorted before any damage occurs to the cable.

Secretary will speak to Donnie Morrison.

CalMac

7.3

It appears that the ferry into Lochmaddy is already showing one

hour delay on some crossings. It is clear that not enough time is being given to the turnaround. It would be best if the timings when making the summer timetable looked at this. Currently the way it's worked means that people have to be in Uig earlier than they really need to, if the ferry is running late. Skye itself has seen a significant increase in tourism numbers and it was felt that it would be useful to have someone take part in the meetings currently being carried out in Skye to look at the problem of increased visitors.

Campervans

7.4

There has been no response yet from Legal to the request for information reference wild camping etc.

Greylag and Barnacle Geese

7.5

Uisdean and Roddy had met Alasdair Allan and a number of crofters to discuss the problem of geese. It was felt that if the situation were not brought under control that crofting on the machair would be finished in less than then 10 years.

Tractor Rally

7.6

The fund raised for MND was currently at £8000. Congratulations to the organisers for a fantastic effort.

HHP

7.7

A fence at Dunrossil needed to be fixed.
Cllr MacKay will discuss with HHP.

Correspondence Received:

8.0

A Ward Fund application was received from Craigard and it was agreed that £500 should be awarded.

9.0

Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be on Monday 19 June in Hosta Hall at 7.30pm.