



North Uist Community Council

Comhairle Coimhearsnachd Uibhist a Tuath

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NORTH UIST COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN HOSTA HALL ON MONDAY 19 JUNE 2017 AT 7.30PM

Present: Sheena Stewart - Chair
John Mac Donald – Treasurer
Cllr Uisdean Robertson – Secretary
Flora MacDonald – Vice Chair
Joan Ferguson
Donald E Morrison
Donald A MacLennan
Terry Wakeling
Cllr Iain M MacLeod

Apologies: Jessie Morrison
Effie Rodger
Cllr Roddy MacKay

Public: Iain S Morrison
Alison Cropper

1.0 Adoption of Minute:

Proposed: Donald E Morrison
Seconded: Donald A MacLennan

2.0 Statement of Account:

The audited accounts had been received back from the Finance Department in Stornoway. Total uncommitted balance stands at £8640.48. Total in reserve stood at £3948.39. The repairs to old Kilmuir Cemetery would be done fairly soon and we had received two of the benches but they still had to be painted. Planters were still situated at Hougharry road end, Lochmaddy pier and at Clachan. A small amount was still in reserve to do some work on the planters.

3.0 Matters Arising:

3.1 West Camp:

There is still no update on West Camp.

3.2 M V Lochportain:

The Secretary had met with Brian Fulton to discuss the issue of seating on the M V Lochportain. The promised response has still not arrived and the Secretary will have further conversation with Calmac on the issue.

3.3 Uist and Barra Foodbank:

There had been a meeting on 7th June and a committee had been formed. VABV is involved as well. There was a need to get some storage facilities and this is being engaged with at the moment.

3.4 Fairy Knoll:

An undertaking has been given that this area will be cleared.

3.5 Muillean nan Geirr:

The Secretary has spoken to Donnie Morrison on the issue of the fibre optic cable in this area and Donnie has undertaken to investigate.

3.6 Greylag and Barnacle Geese:

The problem of greylag and barnacle geese has been brought to the attention of the Cabinet Secretary and a response has come back from Roseanne Cunningham.

3.7 HHP:

The fence in Lochmaddy that needs repairing is across from North Uist Estate office.

4.0 Locality Planning:

Two priority areas had been chosen, these being North Uist and Benbecula and Stornoway West. A number of priorities within these areas were chosen, these being housing, amenities, play park provision in Balivanich and the relocation of jobs from Stornoway to Balivanich.

5.0 Modern Apprenticeships:

The Comhairle had advertised a number of modern

apprenticeship opportunities in Uist. These had been widely advertised and early indication was that there was plenty of interest in all the apprenticeships being offered. There was a need to encourage younger people to stay on the island and these apprenticeships were a step in the right direction. The career structure in Health and Social Care is still of concern with an increasingly ageing workforce. This was a particular area of discussion within the community at all times and particularly in relation to fifteen minute visits by carers to those who are housebound. It was felt that it would be useful to have a further discussion with Ron Culley on how they are progressing with encouraging younger people into this field of work

6.0 Police Report

No police presence.

7.0 Councillors Report:

Spaceport 1 – The comhairle would be making a submission in mid-July to the Space Agency reference the vertical take off proposal on the west side of North Uist.

Broadband – It appears that the west side of North Uist will now be getting 6 cabinets. A timeline has still to be agreed. Grimsay is still presenting the engineers with a problem because the current cabling is some kind of fibre that cannot be used.

Geese – Crofters had met with National Farmers Union to discuss the concerns reference greylag and barnacle geese. There was discussion on the failure of the IT system at Scottish Government and the fact that some crofters are still waiting for payments.

CEUT – The Udal app should be ready by July for public use.

Housing - £25m had been allocated to the Comhairle for housing provision. It is important that the community identify what needs to be done in the area and puts pressure on those in charge to satisfy that need.

Strategic MOWGs – The Comhairle had formed a Strategic MOWG for each committee. These member officer working groups would meet between the committee series. The Uist councillors had representation on each of these groups.

Scottish Water – Commitment had been given from Scottish Water that there would be no cutback in the infrastructure proposed at Lochmaddy.

Health Board – The Secretary was due to become a member of

the Health Board from the 1st August.

Air Traffic Control – Concern had been expressed about the possible remote management of air traffic control. However in a meeting with the Transport Minister he had given an undertaking that there would be no compromising on safety. It was felt locally that these jobs should be protected as they were of economic value to the community.

8.0 Matters Raised by Members of the Public:

8.1 Lochmaddy Hospital

Now that the An Torc proposal for Lochmaddy hospital was not going ahead concern was expressed about the building being extremely unsafe. This issue needs to be raised with those responsible for derelict building safety. The issue of Lochmaddy School and what was going to happen to it was also discussed. It appears that there is potential interest in the building from North Uist Development Company.

8.2 Carinish

Concern was expressed about the number of cars that are derelict opposite the council housing scheme. There also appears to be some car repairs going on in the same location.

8.3 Election Posters

Secretary undertook to talk to the election team reference the number of election posters that were still up in the community.

8.4 Seasonal Bins

It was decided to approach the council reference the desire to have more bins out during the summer season.

8.5 Ditching

A request had come in to see if something could be done about the ditch approximately in the area of John MacLean and Alasdair Laing.

9.0 Correspondence Received:

9.1 Ward Funding

Application was received from North Uist Amateur Athletics Club and it was agreed to award £1000. It was also agreed to award £250 to the Young Piper of the Year competition.

9.2 Community Council Challenge Fund:

It was agreed to nominate North Uist Show committee reference the Community Council Challenge Fund. Joan Ferguson will submit quotes for work at Hosta Hall.

10.0 Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be on Monday 14 August in Carinish Hall at 7.30pm.