



North Uist Community Council Comhairle Coimhearsnachd Uibhist a Tuath

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NORTH UIST COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN CARINISH HALL ON MONDAY 14 AUGUST 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
Cllr Roddy MacKay
Iain Morrison

Apologies: Ragnall Maclain

Public: Liz MacKay, Police Scotland
Iain S Morrison, Am Paipear
Jim Keogh, Arramara Teoranta

1.0 Adoption of Minute:

Proposed: Flora MacDonald
Seconded: John MacDonald

2.0 Statement of Account:

Cheque had been received to the value of £2094.50 from the Ranger Forum. This was toward the cost of the Planning Fee for the turbine project being taken forward by the North Uist Development Company. The Company Council had agreed to do the planning application. The sum of £500 had been paid out for the benches. Total uncommitted balance stood at £8410.48. War Memorial Fund Balance was £2093.48.

3.0 Acadian Seaplants:

Mr Jim Keogh, European Director – Strategic Affaris Arramara Teoranta gave a presentation on their plans for the seaweed industry in North Uist and the takeover of Uist Asco Ltd. Their

aim is to put it on a solid footing for the future through the application of resource science to ensure that only the optimum sustainable harvest is carried out and processed. This will take time but from the Acadian Seaplants perspective it was a long term project. It was their ambition to make the maximum contribution to the community from an economic, social and cultural perspective. They would appreciate feedback from us on whether they were achieving that over time.

Presentation attached.

4.0 Matters Arising:

4.1 West Camp:

West Camp will remain open and operational following a refurbishment and downsizing of the accommodation, beginning in October 2017. The catering contractor, Elixir, is working to determine the resourcing requirement for its management of the scaled back facilities.

4.2 Uist and Barra Foodbank:

There was a meeting last week. Now in the process of registering as a charity and being assisted by the Trussel Trust. Still trying to find appropriate storage facilities. In Barra there is storage at Ardveenish.

4.3 Fairy Knoll:

The site has been cleared and will be used as a temporary base for Ross-shire Engineering. They have the contract for the new Scottish Water Plant at Lochmaddy.

4.4 Muillean nan Geirr:

B T cable is still lying on the ground. Contact will be made with Donnie Morrison on this issue.

4.5 HHP:

Fence in Lochmaddy has still to be repaired. Roddy will chase this up.

4.6 Modern Apprenticeships:

There had been a number of no-shows at interview for Apprentice Mechanic at Market Stance. Six applications had been received but no one had turned up for interview. Secretary will make some enquiries.

4.7 Lochmaddy Hospital:

The issue of the safety of people who may be able to access the building has now been raised with Environmental Health and Building Control.

4.8 Lochmaddy School:

North Uist Development Company have made a Community Right to Buy enquiry in relation to the school building.

4.9 Seasonal Bins:

The need for better provision all over the island has been raised with the Waste Team. Also, the need to have better signposting of the bin provision at Lochmaddy Harbour.

4.10 Ditching:

The Knockline issue has been raised with Technical Services.

5.0 Police Report

The last two months have been very busy. The new Sergeant arrived in June. Added problems with holiday period and also the need to cover Barra. There have been a few minor road accidents and court will be busy this month with a few issues such as drink driving and domestic problems. EDF festival went very well with very few problems. The policeman allocated to Lochmaddy is leaving as he has been promoted. That will leave two vacancies to be filled. The flat above the station will continue to be occupied. The future of the station itself has still to be resolved. It was stated that in the case of use of mobile phones while driving, two officers had to see offence before charges could be brought.

6.0 Councillors Report:

Islands Deal – The Comhairle along with Orkney and Shetland were looking to get a deal from Scottish and British Governments. This would be similar to the City Deals which have already been agreed.

Sealladh Hiort – A number of the committee of Sealladh Hiort had met with Ionad Hiort members and interested groups from Harris. The hope is to progress a project with all three areas involved – a hub and spoke model.

Carinish School – John Sweeney was to visit Carinish School to do an official opening of the satellite site based in the school of E-sgoil. He was also due to visit Sgoil Uibhist a Tuath and the Dr

MacLeod's Memorial.

Scottish Water – The work at Lochmaddy was going to progress as per initially programmed. Scottish Water management have indicated that they would be happy to discuss the project with the Community Council. Dates are currently being negotiated.

Ferry Infrastructure – Plans for the work at Lochmaddy were currently being worked up. A public meeting was to be held in Lochmaddy Hall on the 6th September. The work at Lochmaddy would be cost neutral to the Comhairle.

Spaceport – The project partners would be giving a presentation to the UK Space Agency in mid July. The outcome should then be informed to the different groups by September.

Loganair/Flybe – The forthcoming competition on the Sty/Gla route was a concern. It has the potential to impact on the other routes being run by Loganair in the Western Isles. The Comhairle have written the Transport Minister laying out their concerns. The local members have met with Alasdair Allan and he has written the Minister on the potential of a PSO on the Ben/Gla service.

7.0 Matters Raised by Members of the Public:

7.1 Roads:

The corner at Ahmhor remains a concern in terms of alignment and the potential for an accident.

The area of flooding in Lochmaddy and the dangerous ditch between the bank and the hotel needs to be investigated and sorted.

The car park on the Committee Road access needs to be looked at as currently it is responsible for the water that runs on to the road. This could prove dangerous in very wet weather and also in freezing conditions.

7.2 Baleshare:

The promised white lining on Baleshare causeway has not been done.

The unadopted road down to the parking area at Baleshare beach is in need of some work.

7.3 Tourism:

There was a real need for more public toilet provision in North Uist.

Some townships were ruined by the amount of abandoned vehicles that littered the area.

8.0 Correspondence Received:

8.1 Ward Funding

It was agreed to award Lochmaddy Village Hall £600 towards the Firworks display and Beinn Lee Hill Race £300.

8.2 H H P:

Letter from HHP drawing the Community Council's attention to the £25,000,000 allocation for housing in the Western Isles.

8.3 Community Council Fund:

A decision needs to be made on how the Community Council allocation of £1000 is to be spent.

9.0 Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be on Monday 18 September in Lochmaddy Hall at 7.30pm.