



North Uist Community Council Comhairle Coimhearsnachd Uibhist a Tuath

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NORTH UIST COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN LOCHMADDY HALL ON MONDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 7.30PM

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

Apologies: Ragnall Maclain
Joan Ferguson
Terry Wakeling
John MacDonald
Cllr Roddy MacKay

Public: Cllr Iain A MacNeil
Annette Rankin
Peter Keiller
Gina MacDonald
Marnie Keltie
Mustapha Hocine
Peggy Townsend
PC Derek Cowan, Police Scotland

1.0 **Adoption of Minute:**

Minute was adopted with the riders that Jessie Morrison and Effie Rodger were present.

Proposed: Donald A MacLennan

Seconded: Effie Rodger

2.0

Statement of Account:

Statement of Account was circulated – total expenditure was £2084.50 which included planning fee for the St Kilda Centre and a fee to Studio Hebrides for work they had done on drawings for the centre. The money had come in from the Ranger Forum. Total uncommitted balance now stands at £8120.48. Balance of War Memorial Fund is £2093.48.

3.0

Care in the Community/Respite Care:

It was felt that 10 years ago care issues had been a significant challenge but since then things had got progressively worse. There was a shortage of carers and some of those currently working were of pensionable age themselves. There was also the concern in relation to the SVQ which would further reduce the number of carers as they were unwilling to do this qualification. The issue of a lack of a day care centre was also flagged up. It was felt that with an ageing population there was not enough long term planning and that the service needed very little to go wrong before it collapsed. The formation of the Integrated Joint Board was seen to have contributed nothing positive at this stage. Respite beds had been reduced, Rubha Doigheag had closed citing lack of demand. It was clear that people were not fully aware of their rights. If carers cannot access the correct support their situation can quickly reach crisis point. The Carer's Scotland Act as well as Respite at Home and its implications were discussed at length. In terms of North Uist it was felt that Uist house was too far away for families to visit. It was important that Trianaid was upgraded. The Chair and Secretary had met with Ron Culley, Chief Officer of the IJB several weeks ago to discuss Trianaid. Currently all effort is on a new care home in Stornoway and some provision in rural Lewis. Going back to respite care there were 'hot spots' where you needed to book weeks in advance. From discussion it is clear that importance of adequate respite provision. Why for example was the Bruach Gorm Sheltered Housing scheme not kept and used as social care housing. Its proximity to Trianaid would have made sense for that to have been done. At one time however it was said that there was no demand for sheltered housing. It was suggested that an independent audit of carers be carried out to ascertain what services they have been offered. A Freedom of Information request should also be made asking how many carers do not get the dates they want for respite.

4.0

Matters Arising:

4.1

West Camp:

Nothing new to report but we will keep our eye on how the situation develops.

4.2 Muillean nan Geirr:

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

4.3 HHP:

Fence in Lochmaddy has still to be repaired. Roddy has been in touch with HHP so we will await further developments.

4.4 Ditching:

Various issues in relation to ditching have been discussed with Technical Services currently. These include Lochmaddy, Ahmore, Committee Road and Knockline.

4.5 Ferry Infrastructure:

A drop in was held in Lochmaddy Hall on 6th September where the various partners involved in the proposed work at Lochmaddy, Uig and Tarbert were present. The information was of fairly high quality and the attendance from the public was very good. It is hoped to get CMal back to Uist in the next few weeks to have more in depth discussion on the internal layout of the new ferry.

4.6 Spaceport:

The bid to the UK Space Agency in mid July was unsuccessful. Feedback has been received on the bid and more work and negotiation is going on currently. The talks appear to be quite positive so we will wait to see what the outcome is over the next few months.

4.7 Loganair:

Jonathan Hinkles, Chief Executive Officer of Loganair has accepted an invitation to meet with the Community Councils. This meeting will be held on 30th October in Balivanich.

5.0 Police Report

The Police had been involved in the tragic incident in Berneray where a gentleman had gone missing and had been found in Loch Brusda. The Police were heavily involved currently in road safety issues, these included trailers without lights, vehicle brake lights, speeding etc. In terms of staffing it was hoped that there would be three PCs in the North Uist area which would give more of a visible presence in the community. Police in Uist are also engaged in helping out in Barra as and when required. Issues

raised by members included concerns about cyclists on single track roads and also the use of passing places by visitors. It was stated that leaflets had been prepared by Community Safety and were distributed widely. The issue of road markings was raised in terms of cats eyes needing to be replaced in certain areas. A complaint was made in relation to cars coming into Lochmaddy at quite a fast speed and it was agreed that the police would monitor this.

6.0 Councillors Report:

There had been no council meetings since August, the next meetings were due next week. The only meetings had been the Chairs Group and the Budget Board. Discussions at both these groups were at a fairly early stage.

7.0 Matters Raised by Members of the Public:

7.1 North Uist Flag:

There has been a lot of discussion on social media on North Uist flag. There is some disagreement as to design. We were informed that registration for example costs £1000. Is this something the Community Council wants to take an active involvement in?

7.2 Deer:

The issue of deer damage in gardens was raised as well as the danger they present to vehicles on the road particularly at night. In terms of damage to garden areas people should phone the estate in the first instance to make them aware of the problem. A Deer Management Plan is currently being worked on and it is hoped to have an agreed plan by the end of the year. A separate Tick and Lymes Group also exists.

8.0 Correspondence Received:

8.1 Ward Funding

It was agreed to award £600 to Sgoil Uibhist a Tuath to enable them to buy equipment so that the children could do some work within the Kedar at the school. It was agreed to award £300 to the Foodbank.

8.2 Community Council Social Fund:

It was agreed to disperse allocation as per last year, with the addition of the Carinish Hall area over 60's Christmas dinner.

9.0 Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be on Monday 23 October in Taigh Sgire Sholais at 7.30pm.

