



North Uist Community Council
Comhairle Coimhearsnachd Uibhist a Tuath

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**NORTH UIST COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN HOSTA HALL ON
MONDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2017 AT 7.30PM**

Present: Sheena Stewart - Chair
Cllr Uisdean Robertson – Secretary
Flora MacDonald – Vice Chair
Terry Wakeling
Donald E Morrison
Ken MacDonald
Iain Morrison
D A MacLennan

Apologies: Effie Rodger
Joan Ferguson
John MacDonald
Cllr Iain M MacLeod
Cllr Roddy MacKay

Public: I S Morrison, Am Paipear

1.0 Adoption of Minute:

Proposed: Terry Wakeling

Seconded: D E Morrison

2.0 Statement of Account:
No change from previous month.

3.0 Matters Arising:

3.1 West Camp:

A comprehensive report on the current situation was reported in the last issue of Am Paipear.

3.2 Muillean nan Geirr:

The work at this area has still to be completed and Secretary will follow up again with Donnie Morrison.

3.3 HHP:

Cllr MacKay has been in contact with HHP again and hopefully that will be sufficient to encourage them to proceed with work that needs done.

3.4 North Uist Flag:

The chair will get in touch with Andy MacKinnon, Taigh Chearsabhagh to find out what the current situation is.

3.5 Deer:

A helicopter count of deer is to be carried out at the beginning of the year. This should enable us to get an accurate figure for the number of deer currently on North Uist.

3.6 White Lining:

There is still work to be done in relation to white lining. Secretary to check with Technical Services to see if this work is actually going to happen this year.

3.7 Sealladh Hiort:

The Comhairle have agreed to match the 50% funding that HIE had committed to carrying out a feasibility study.

3.8 Visit Scotland:

Visit Scotland have stated that as far as they are concerned their decision to close Lochmaddy will not be changed. A meeting is to be held with the MSP on 19th January where the issue will be further discussed.

3.9 Housing:

Calum Iain MacIver, Director of Development has now attended two meetings in North Uist to discuss the Strategic Housing Investment Plan. There are a number of options now on the table to provide housing in North Uist. However, a lot will depend on the response the Comhairle get back from Kevin Stewart MSP. The Comhairle have written Scottish Government suggesting how best the extra housing money could be utilised in the islands. There is concern at the moment that HHP as registered social landlord do not have the capacity to spend the allocation given within the tight timeline.

3.10 Lochmaddy Bank of Scotland:

The issue of lighting at the bank was raised, it appears that some of the lights were not working and bearing in mind the steep incline up to the bank this is something that needs to be addressed. We were informed that the bank have now employed two trainees which will hopefully help with the problems experienced recently in regards to closing on certain days.

3.11 Communities Board:

Angus Campbell is to meet with the Association of Community Councils to discuss how the Communities Board can work with the community. This meeting will be held on the 28th in Balivanich.

3.12 Audit Scotland:

Audit Scotland met with the Association to discuss the findings of the report into the ferry tendering process.

3.13 Election Posters:

The issue of posters still attached at various locations has been raised with the election team of the Comhairle once again.

3.14 Defibrillator Signs:

Secretary is to approach Angus Morrison in regards to getting signs to indicate where defibrillators are in position in the area.

4.0 Police Report:

There was no police presence at the meeting.

5.0 Councillors Report:

Capital Programme: The Comhairle are proceeding on the basis that there will be £46 million in the settlement. £18.5 million is being allocated to core and statutory work, £15 million to Lewis Care, £2.5m to St Brendans Hospital and there is a wish for £7.5m to be allocated to Castlebay School. The rest will be used for the Match Fund.

Spinal Route: A request has been sent to our MSP asking if he could invite the Transport Minister to Uist. We hope to make a special plea for extra funding towards the spinal route. Currently the Capital allocation the Comhairle gets is insufficient to make any progress on the spinal route.

Fixed Link: Cllr Calum MacMillan SNP has done a lot of work on a fixed link between the Western Isles and Skye. He has promoted the idea within the Comhairle and bearing in mind the cost of ferry services going forward it seems that this is something that is worth looking at.

PSO/ADS: We continue to engage with the Comhairle, Loganair, Scottish Government on the merits/demerits of PSO as opposed to ADS on the Benbecula to Glasgow service.

Islands Deal: Work is continuing on making a case for an Islands Deal which would be the first rural deal for Scotland. A number of city deals are in the pipeline at the moment.

6.0 Matters Raised by Members of the Public:

6.1 Creagorry Co-op:

The issue of disability access to the co-op was discussed. This was particularly in relation to parking near the entrance. The disabled parking signs are not very clear at the moment. The Vice Chair indicated that she would raise this issue with Co-op management. There is currently no disability access panel in Uist but UCVO are looking into the possibility of setting one up.

6.2 Taigh Chearsabhagh:

Concern had been expressed about the staffing situation and the Secretary indicated that he would discuss with management.

6.3 Margaret Saxton:

The Community Council members wished to send the Saxton family a sympathy card. Members recognised the stalwart work that Margaret had done as a member of North Uist Community Council over many years.

6.4 Distillery:

The members welcomed the proposal to have a distillery built at Claddach Illeray. This would bring added economic development to the area.

7.0 Correspondence Received:

7.1 Lochmaddy Hospital:

The Community Council welcomed the fact that a local contractor had purchased the Lochmaddy Hospital site. The contractor was

keen to find out what the community would like to see happen to the hospital building and how the land could be utilised. The Community Council were of the view that flats and a respite care facility would be of benefit to the area. It was also hoped that housing could be provided on the land round the hospital. There was a real need for certain types of houses to satisfy current specific demand.

8.0 **Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on Monday 15 January in Carinish Hall at 7.30pm.