



North Uist Community Council Comhairle Coimhearsnachd Uibhist a Tuath

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NORTH UIST COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN CARINISH HALL ON MONDAY 15 JANUARY 2018 AT 7.30PM

Present: Sheena Stewart - Chair
Cllr Uisdean Robertson – Secretary
John MacDonald – Treasurer
Terry Wakeling
Joan Ferguson
Jessie Morrison
Donald E Morrison
Ragnall Maclain
Iain Morrison

Apologies: Cllr Roddy MacKay
Cllr Iain M MacLeod
Effie Rodger
Flora MacDonald
Ken MacDonald

Public: PC Liz MacKay

1.0 Adoption of Minute:
One amendment – Jessie Morrison was present at the meeting of 20th November.

Proposed: Terry Wakeling
Seconded: D E Morrison

2.0 Statement of Account:
Balance as at 15 January is £12770.97. Balance held in reserve £5395.39. Total uncommitted balance is £7375.58. Balance in War Memorial Fund is £2060.48. It was decided at the meeting to progress with ordering benches for Grimsay, Lochportain and Cleatraval. Also to purchase paint to be used at Lochmaddy pier.

3.0 Matters Arising:

3.1 Muillean nan Geirr:

Secretary will get in touch with Donnie Morrison on this issue and will also follow up on the west side of North Uist and Grimsay Broadband situation.

3.2 HHP:

Cllr MacKay continues to follow up on the Lochmaddy fencing issue.

3.3 North Uist Flag:

Chair will follow up on this with Andy MacKinnon, Taigh Chearsabhagh.

3.4 White Lining:

It is disappointing to note that the white lining has still to be carried out. The latest date being given is March.

3.5 Lochmaddy Bank of Scotland:

It appears that the lighting has still not been fixed. Secretary will follow up.

3.6 Communities Board:

Angus Campbell, Chair of the Communities Board has met with the Uist Association of Community Councils and a note of the meeting will be circulated.

3.7 Defibrillator Signs:

The Comhairle will install defibrillator signs as and when they are in the specific areas where the defibrillators are situated.

3.8 Creagorry Co-op:

The disabled parking signs will be refreshed when the white liner lorry is in Uist which we understand will be March.

3.9 Taigh Chearsabhagh:

Café Manager has now been appointed.

3.10 Distillery:

It is expected that work will start in the next year.

4.0 **Police Report:**

Three new policemen have been appointed to Uist and two will be based in Lochmaddy. The last period has been fairly quiet with nothing of significance happening. There have been some random speed checks carried out and a couple of warnings issued for bad driving. It is interesting to note that one of the new policemen is a vehicle examiner.

5.0 **Councillors Report:**

HIAL: The issue of air traffic control centralisation is a concern to us. The issue will be discussed with both MP and MSP. It should be noted that recruitment and retention in Benbecula has not been an issue. A lot of the staff there are young and local and every effort must be made to ensure that these jobs are kept in the community.

Spaceport 1: It appears that there is private interest in developing the Spaceport and things are looking fairly positive at the moment.

MOD: Concern is being expressed by the continuing loss of jobs at the Range and West Camp. It appears that the new accommodation block in St Kilda will house much less of a cohort so that would indicate job losses. It is also felt that the investment in technology will lead to job losses as well.

Housing: The issue of housing provision in North Uist continues apace. The Director of Development has met with community interests a number of times and a further Housing Seminar will be held in Stornoway on 8th February.

Fixed Link: A STAG appraisal of ferry provision to the Western Isles will be commencing shortly. This will also look at the potential of a fixed link between the Western Isles and the mainland.

Single Island Authority: In view of the regionalisation agenda nationally the Comhairle are of the view that a Single Island Authority would best serve the Western Isles. A presentation on this issue will be given to Councillors on 6th February.

Fisheries: There is continuing discussion on the possible advantages of expansion of fisheries within the Western Isles as a result of Brexit. It is an issue that is continually to the forefront and it's going to be a case of wait and see.

Benbecula/Glasgow PSO: Our MP Angus Brendan MacNeil

has been in touch with HITRANS asking them to do a survey of the potential of a PSO on this route.

Islands Deal: It is hoped to have some projects on the table shortly. As soon as we know what the projects are that have potential to go forward we will circulate to the Community Council members.

6.0 Matters Raised by Members of the Public:

6.1 Nail Cutting Service:

This is a service not offered at the moment through podiatry. The Secretary will raise with the Health Board.

6.2 Specsavers:

It appears that the company will no longer be using Lochmaddy Hall. This clearly presents a problem for those who have travel difficulties. The Community Council will engage with the company to find out why they have changed their venue.

6.3 Tractor Rally:

The tractor rally will take place on the 26th May. This is organised by North Uist Agricultural Society and will this year be supporting the Tagsa Uibhist Dementia Project which offers one to one support in home.

6.4 Griminish Pier:

We have had a complaint that the pier is untidy, a health hazard and not kept up to the required standard. There is also an electric cable which may be presenting a hazard.

6.5 Kallin Harbour:

One of the members was enquiring as to when the ice plant is going to be moved. There is also a need for a skip for the rubbish that remains beside the tank and the old fuel tank has also still to be moved.

6.6 Roads:

One or two issues were raised in relation to water lying on the road specifically opposite East Camp in Benbecula and also in the car park at Cearsabhagh houses in Lochmaddy. There is also an ongoing problem with water lying on the road at Carabhat, Carinish. It was also mentioned that the car parking at Carinish has never been addressed.

7.0 Correspondence Received:

7.1 Letters of thanks were received from Craigard, Grimsay Over 60s and Trianaid for funding received.

7.2 Ward Funding:

A request for ward funding was received from the Sgoil Lionacleit School Pipe Band for their New York trip on the 7th April. Form to be sent.

8.0

Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be on Monday 12 February in Lochmaddy Hall at 7.30pm.