



North Uist Community Council Comhairle Coimhearsnachd Uibhist a Tuath

Secretary : Uisdean Robertson
Ferguslea, 16 Carinish, North Uist, HS6 5HL
Telephone : 01876 580369
e-mail :- u.robertson@cne-siar.gov.uk

NORTH UIST COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN LOCHMADDY HALL ON MONDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2018 AT 7.30PM

Present: Sheena Stewart – Chair
Flora MacDonald – Vice Chair
Cllr Uisdean Robertson – Secretary
John MacDonald – Treasurer
Effie Rodger
Donald A MacLennan
Terry Wakeling
Ken MacDonald
Jessie Morrison
Donald E Morrison
Cllr Roddy MacKay
Cllr Iain M MacLeod

Apologies: **Joan Ferguson**
Ragnall Maclain

Public: Cllr Iain A MacNeil
PC Colin Kirk

1.0 Adoption of Minute:

Proposed: John MacDonald
Seconded: Terry Wakeling

It was agreed to co-opt Angus MacLennan, Lochportain on to the Community Council.

2.0 Statement of Account:

A copy of the statement of account was circulated by the treasurer. The account remains in a healthy condition. There are no major changes since last month.

3.0 Matters Arising:

3.1 HHP:

Cllr MacKay had been in touch with HHP who say fencing will not be replaced unless it is a life and limb situation. However it appears that there was quite a lot of fence improvement works going on currently in Lochmaddy. Roddy will find out if the area to which the complaint refers to is on the list.

3.2 North Uist Flag:

The chair will be meeting with Andy MacKinnon, Taigh Chearsabhaigh tomorrow.

3.3 White Lining:

A date of 26 February, weather permitting, has been given for commencing the white lining works.

3.4 Communities Board:

There is the potential of having somebody co-opted from Uist onto the Board. However, they would still have to go through the same rigorous interview process as other board members.

3.5 Nail Cutting Service:

The Secretary will have a further discussion with an officer of the Health Board on this service, which is currently not offered at the moment through podiatry.

3.6 Specsavers:

There had been a problem engaging with the company but the Treasurer was able to furnish the Secretary with a contact number.

4.0 Play Parks:

£10,900 has been allocated for playparks in Ward 2. This is one-off funding and can only be paid out where a community group is willing to take responsibility for the retention and maintenance of the playpark. A consultation will be carried out with parents of school age and pre-school children to find out which playparks are most used and where people want the funding to be spent. It has to be clear that this depends on local groups being available and willing to take responsibility for the chosen playparks and their maintenance. The liability for a playpark rests with the occupier of the premises but that need not be the owner. Therefore liability will rest with the community groups who take

over running of each playpark and the funding.

5.0 Single Island Authority:

The Comhairle are keen to progress a Single Island Authority. It is anticipated that this would be a fully elected single legal entity with fully integrated service budgets and empowered by its elected status to give clear and accountable leadership. Below the authority level there would be specific boards or committees. Examples of these could be Health and Social Care, Education and Children Services, Innovation and Enterprise, Regulatory Services and Infrastructure and Assets. This is a deliberately non-exclusive list as it is anticipated that the appropriate boards or committees would be determined following discussion with communities, partners and government. Such boards could comprise elected members or a mix of elected members and co-opted members, community representatives or others with a particular contribution to make. It is not intended to limit any potential governance models for these boards as this would be subject to further discussion. One example would be the voting and non-voting membership model adopted for IJBs.

6.0 Police Report:

There had been a number of calls during the last session, these included one theft, one domestic, one road traffic collision and one regarding a device found on a beach. The single command and control system was found by police locally to be useful. Its one drawback was the loss of local knowledge. Two issues raised by members related to speeding, and the use of mobile phones while driving. The abandoned cars lying all over the place was something else that was of concern. A member also raised a point on a police car following a member of the public in a manner which was considered inappropriate.

7.0 Councillors Report:

Council Budget: The Councillors explained the decisions arrived at the recent Council budget setting. The amendments made and the rationale behind them was also explained. This related particularly to the £1.2m extra funding the council had received. Ward members felt that this funding needed to be prioritised on the basis of properly worked out criteria before any hasty decisions were made.

Roads: The Capital Funding for roads has been set at £6m. The last capital programme had £10m. From this we can see there is a significant reduction in roads funding. The Comhairle will have to decide if this funding will be front loaded. This means that the work would happen in the first two years to make it worthwhile for the only contractor left in the islands available to

do surfacing work. It is then hoped that funding which would relate to Renewables Projects and the Islands Deal would be available for years 3, 4 and 5.

Revenue Funding for roads has been set at £3.3m, of which £1.3m is for gritting. Within the 25% savings that have to be made over the next few years the Department is asked to find £826k. From this we can see that we are going to have significant problems in maintaining our road network.

HIAL: The ATC centralisation remains high on our agenda and has been discussed with both MP and MSP. The Comhairle still await a response from the Minister of Transport to the letter they sent some weeks ago. The matter is on the agenda for the Islands Transport Forum on the 28th March.

Spaceport 1: There is going to be a report to Policy and Resources Committee at the next series.

Housing: A Housing Seminar was held in Stornoway on the 8th February. An invitation has been extended to North Uist Development Company. However it looks as if progress is being made in relation to potential sites in North Uist.

Fisheries: A conference on Fisheries will be held in Benbecula on the 8th and 9th March. Lord Duncan, Scottish Office Minister will be in attendance.

Islands Deal: A list of projects that are currently being further investigated was discussed. These include the Spinal Route which is one of the priorities of the Uist and Barra community.

8.0 Matters Raised by Members of the Public:

8.1 Post Office Delivery:

A complaint was raised in relation to the Sunday delivery at Christmas. Bearing in mind that there was no delivery on Monday it was felt that the Sunday delivery was not necessary. Some of our elderly community had been alarmed by the knock on the door on Sunday.

8.2 Deer:

The problem of deer in people's gardens is one that continues to exasperate people. It appears that complaining routinely to the estate has no effect. There are one or two people in the community who have to do this consistently but are still dissatisfied with the outcome. We still await the areal count which was due over the winter period. This would give a better

indication of how many deer are present in North Uist.

9.0 Correspondence Received:

9.1 Ward Funding:

An application had been received from North Uist Development Company to help with their Renewables Project. It was agreed to contribute £250 from each Councillor and it was felt appropriate that the Community Council would also contribute £250.

9.2 Challenge Fund:

A letter of thanks was received from North Uist Agricultural Society regarding the Challenge Fund monies they had received.

10.0 Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be on Monday 12 March in Taigh Sgìre Sholais at 7.30pm.