



North Uist Community Council Comhairle Coimhearsnachd Uibhist a Tuath

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NORTH UIST COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN TAIGH SGIRE SHOLAIS ON MONDAY 12 MARCH 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
Donald E Morrison
Cllr Iain M MacLeod
Ragnall Maclain

Apologies: Joan Ferguson
Jessie Morrison
Cllr Roddy MacKay
Angus MacLennan

Public: Alison Cropper, CnES
PC Hazel Connery
Cllr Iain A MacNeil

1.0 **Adoption of Minute:**

Proposed: John MacDonald
Seconded: Terry Wakeling

2.0 **Statement of Account:**
There are no major changes since last month.

3.0 **Matters Arising:**

3.1 **HHP:**

Question reference fencing in Lochmaddy to be left until the next meeting as Cllr MacKay was unable to attend this meeting.

3.2 North Uist Flag:

This issue to be put to one side at this current time.

3.3 White Lining:

The white lining is being carried out at the present time.

3.4 Communities Board:

There is a need to chase this up as there is no representative from Uist or Harris on the board.

3.5 Nail Cutting Service:

NHS Western Isles do not offer this service but are willing to train people to carry out this work.

3.6 Specsavers:

Specsavers are now going to slot in appointments in Lochmaddy Hall.

3.7 Play Parks:

Community Council agreed to keep the fund in their account.

4.0 Police Report:

There had been eleven calls in the last month of which one was fire related and one was road traffic. The Police had been out several times with their speed gun. The white van at the scheme in Carinish which was subject to complaints was going to be uplifted by Laings in Lochboisdale.

5.0 Councillors Report:

Fisheries Conference: A successful conference was held in Benbecula, this was attended by various fisheries representatives from the Northern Isles and West Coast. Also in attendance were Lord Duncan from the Scottish Office, Alasdair Allan MSP and Angus Brendan MacNeil MP

Uist Economic Task Force: Cllr I A MacNeil is to be the new Chair of the Uist Economic Task Force Working Group. The first meeting of the new group will be held on the 11th May. Cllr I M MacLeod is the other Uist representative on the task Force.

Dentistry: No decision has been made reference the closing of the three dental units and re-locating to a central hub.

Triangle Ferry Provision: We still await clarity as to how the drydock period of the Hebrides will be covered.

Lochcarnan: Repair work to the fuel pipes at Lochcarnan should be complete by the end of March.

Spaceport: This was reported at the Policy and Resources Committee and we understand that Paul Wheelhouse MSP is due to visit Uist in the next few weeks. He is due to meet with Qinetiq and have a look at the proposed site.

Taigh Chearsabhagh Funding: The Service Level Agreement with the Comhairle has been agreed for a further year but will probably come under pressure in the next financial year.

Islands Deal: There is no further progress to report on the Islands Deal. It would be the members intention to report to the Community Council as and when new information becomes available.

Deer: The next meeting of the Deer Management Group will be held on the 26th March in Benbecula.

HIAL: The issue of Air Traffic Control centralisation will be discussed at the Island Transport Forum on the 28th March. This forum is attended by Humza Yousaf Minister of Transport.

Housing: We still await a date for the visit from Kevin Stewart MSP.

Loganair: The issue of a date change to a ticket continues to be of major concern. It is felt that £70 that is charged is far too much.

Council Budget: The Council are forming a new Sub-committee which will look to take forward a programme of cuts across departments of 25% over the next four years.

Slaughterhouse: There has been a reduction in the support funding from the Comhairle for both Lochmaddy and Barra abattoirs.

6.0 Matters Raised by Members of the Public:

6.1 Lochmaddy Pier:

There was a good discussion on the inadequacies of the parking being proposed within the new scheme for the ferry which is now due to arrive in 2020. Secretary to raise issue with CMal. For members of the public plans are available for viewing in the Calmac building.

6.2 Vallay Island:

The issue of large rusty tanks lying on Vallay was raised. It was said that they were an eyesore and there was concern raised in relation to planning. The installation of a grain silo has received planning permission.

6.3 Ahmore Cable:

The cable lying on the surface at Ahmore has still not been dealt with and Ragnall has committed to send the Secretary photographs. This issue has been raised many times with BT over the last six months.

7.0 Correspondence Received:

7.1 Langass Wood:

The issue of the lack of stamps within boxes provided was raised. Sheena said that she would speak to Andrew Ross in relation to this as it would be something the Woodland Trust would deal with.

7.2 Ward Funding:

It was agreed to award NUAC £500.

7.3 Scottish and Southern Electric:

A note of an offer of apprenticeship in Uist was circulated.

8.0 Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be on Monday 16 April in Hosta Hall at 7.30pm.