



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 TAIGH SGIRE SHOLAIS ON MONDAY 3 DECEMBER AT 7.30PM

Present: Sheena Stewart – Chair
Flora MacDonald – Vice Chair
Cllr Uisdean Robertson – Secretary
Donald A MacLennan
Joan Ferguson
Jessie Morrison
Ragnall Maclain
Sarah MacDonald
Donald Ewen Morrison

Apologies: Cllr I M MacLeod
Cllr R MacKay
Ken MacDonald
Angus MacLennan
Effie Rodger
Terry Wakeling

Public: Angus MacDonald
Iain S Morrison
Alison Cropper

1.0 Adoption of Minute:

Proposed: Donald E Morrison
Seconded: Flora MacDonald

2.0 Statement of Account:

Treasurer unable to be present but had reported no change from the month before.

3.0 Matters Arising from the Minute:

3.1 Disability Access Panel:

Awaiting information on the meeting between Store manager and Area Manager regarding the misuse of parking spaces and no parking zone.

3.2 Ahmhor:

Culvert has been replaced but work needs to be done to improve surface which is pitted.

3.3 Kilmuir Cemetery:

Signage and issue of rabbit infestation still to be addressed.

3.4 Bins:

Disappointingly the first round of the Tourism Infrastructure Fund had seen 95% of the funding going to Lewis and Harris. Cllr MacLeod was informed that the reason for that was that the infrastructure in Uist was not deemed to be under pressure. There is to be a second round so the Comhairle have been pressed to address some of the problems that needed seen to in Uist. These included addressing the problem of the Disposal Point in Lochmaddy and the previously discussed problems at Kallin Harbour.

3.5 Defibrillators:

The provision of defibrillators has been good around North Uist with only one or two gaps in the area; Baleshare being one of these areas, but an offer has been made that it could be located at the MacInnes house.

3.6 Marine Harvest:

The drawings from Marine Harvest in regards to their proposals for the shore base in Lochportain were emailed to members for their information. Cllrs MacLeod and MacKay had met with community interest representatives and the Harbour Master. Members of the Community wanted to explore the potential of taking over the facility themselves. However, before anything can progress ownership of the area must be properly established. The Harbour Master is currently establishing ownership.

3.7 Calmac Winter Timetable 2019/20:

As an addition to the proposed timetable it was requested that we ask for late ferries during the Christmas/New Year period.

3.8 Registered Social Landlord:

Concern had been expressed in Uist and Barra in regards to how little of the extra housing financial allocation was being spent in the area. Looking to the future it was decided to investigate the potential of having a Uist and Barra Registered

Social Landlord. The Chair and Secretary attended a meeting in Daliburgh with representatives from all areas of Uist and Barra. The decision from that meeting was to press ahead and examine if this was something that was feasible. The next meeting of the group is on Friday 18th January.

3.9 North Uist Flag:

Philip Tibbetts the Communities Vexillologist visited Uist last month at the invitation of Benbecula Community Council to discuss progressing a flag for Benbecula. In his role as Honorary Vexillologist to the Court of the Lord Lyon Philip works to support communities across Scotland in developing their own flags. Representatives of North Uist and Eriskay Community Councils were also invited to the meeting. (South Uist already have a flag). Philip gave a presentation and talked through the process of registering a community flag. He advised that it would be a positive step for all 3 communities to take this opportunity to co-ordinate their efforts to take forward their plans for flags.

There are different ways of developing a flag depending on what is most appropriate for each community. He can help in the creation of a specific design or as he recommended, and was the favored option by those present at the meeting to maximise the publicity potential for the island to run a competition. Philip can also advise on procedure, assist with the formal paperwork, provide template resources (such as competition packs) and generate artwork. He is also able to give presentations for flag competitions to local schools and other community groups.

The application needs to be made through a statutory body (this includes Community Councils). Benbecula Community Council is coordinating their plans, whereas, in Eriskay the local Co-Chomunn is leading on it.

North Uist Community Council members were undecided if this is something they wished to take forward at this time

4.0 Police Report:

There was no police presence. The Chair will be raising this as an issue with the Chief Inspector when she sees him at the Community Planning Partnership meeting.

5.0 Councillors Report:

5.1 Dentistry: Still awaiting report from Comhairle Chief Executive.

5.2 Spaceport: The proposal on having facility in North Uist is still being worked on.

- 5.3 Housing:** Proposals being developed in Lochmaddy and Claddach Vallay.
- 5.4 Community Empowerment:** Opportunity exists for communities themselves to take over and run services currently provided by the Local Authority.
- 5.5 HIAL:** The Comhairle, Scottish Government and HIAL remain in dialogue on the ATM proposals.
- 5.6 Ferries Summit:** A note of the issues discussed at the Summit in Benbecula will be circulated to members.
- 5.7 Loganair:** The new Loganair timetable will re-introduce the morning connection between Inverness and Benbecula via Stornoway. There will also be extra flights between Glasgow and Benbecula during the summer.
- 6.0 Matters raised by Members of the Public**
- 6.1 Roads:**
The absence of white lining and cats eyes on particularly the Lochmaddy Clachan roads was highlighted.
- 6.2 Fish Disposal Site:**
Concerns were raised that the smell coming from the site at certain times was quite unpleasant. The operator of the site who was present at the meeting was able to speak to those concerns.
- 6.3 Data Protection:**
The need for training to be given for Community Councils was raised. Our understanding of the legislation needs to be addressed as there is confusion on aspects of what you can or cannot put in a Minute of Meeting.
- 7.0 Correspondence Received**
- 7.1 Sgoil Uibhist a Tuath:**
A letter of thanks was received from the After School Garden Club for the £600 allocated from Ward Funding.
- 7.2 Baleshare Beach:**
A letter was received from community members who were keen to see the disabled access from the car park to the beach. Baleshare beach is seen as an ideal place for less able people to walk. Members decided to approach the Comhairle Access officer to see if something could be done. It was also suggested that an App marking where all the beaches are would be of benefit.

8.0

Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be on Monday 21st January in Hosta Hall at 7.30pm.

***NOTE:** It was said that Terry Wakeling would be willing to take on the role of Secretary.