



North Uist Community Council

Comhairle Coimhearsnachd Uibhist a Tuath

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NORTH UIST COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN CARINISH HALL ON MONDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2019 AT 7.30PM

Present:

Sheena Stewart – Chair
Flora MacDonald – Vice Chair
Cllr Uisdean Robertson – Secretary
John MacDonald – Treasurer
Cllr Roddy MacKay
Sarah MacDonald
Effie Rodger
John MacDonald
Donald A MacLennan
Donald Ewen Morrison

Apologies:

Joan Ferguson
Jessie Morrison
Terry Wakeling
Ragnall Maclain
Cllr Iain M MacLeod

Public:

PC Gavin McDevitt
Cllr Iain A MacNeil
Shona MacDonald, BBC
Helen Stoddart
Alison Cropper, CnES
Iain S Morrison, Am Paipear
Brian Rabbits
Anne Rabbits
Angus MacNab
Anne MacNab
Catherine MacLeod
Jean Archer
Mustapha Hocine
David Newman
Joe MacPhee, CnES
Alison MacCorquodale, CnES

1.0 Adoption of Minute:

Proposed: Flora MacDonald

Seconded: Donald E Morrison

2.0 Statement of Account:

Balance as at 21 February 2019 stands at £8655.47. Total uncommitted balance sits at £5965.04. War Memorial Fund balance is £2026.48.

3.0 Matters Arising from the Minute:

3.1 Clachan Bottle Bank:

The Secretary had been in touch with the department and they had agreed that it was possible to move the bottle bank to the quarry beyond the war memorial.

3.2 MOWI:

It was agreed that the Secretary and the Vice Chair would represent the Community Council at the meeting with MOWI.

3.3 Registered Social Landlord:

There has been no progress made with this initiative. We are still waiting for the outcome of a proposed meeting between Malcolm Burr and Lesley Fraser, Head of Housing at Scottish Government.

3.4 Spanish Bridge:

Work continues in terms of sourcing funding to do work on the bridge. If a funding application is successful it will still need the permission of the landowners on both sides of the bridge before work can proceed.

3.5 Blashaval:

It appears that the lighting at the Scottish Water works are now being switched off during the night apart from the ones that are needed for security purposes.

3.6 Cattle Sale:

Secretary had raised this issue with both Calmac and Comhairle. It was agreed that in future Community Council would be made aware of the arrangements prior to sale dates.

3.7 Sgoil Uibhist a Tuath:

Secretary had spoken to Head of Education regarding the lights being on all night round the school. The Head of Education has undertaken to speak to the Head of Assets and Infrastructure at CnES. He did indicate however that he had raised this matter with the department before.

3.8 Bayhead Area:

Secretary had spoken to the Estate Factor who indicated that the Estate were doing everything within their power to address the recognised problem in this area.

4.0 Outdoor Adventure Playground:

A representative of a small group trying to put together a funding application for an adventure playground in Langass Woods attended the meeting. It was hoped to have a facility suitable for pre-school and primary age children. Location would be either at the Bear Hut or near the gate from car park. It was recognised that the traditional playparks are not fit for purpose and that it was short sighted not to have a playpark. Discussion centred on where funding could be sourced from. It was suggested that Crowd Funding, Loch Duart Fund, Awards for All, Lifestyle Lottery and Calmac Community Fund could be accessed. Currently there is a fund of £10,900 within Ward 2 for playpark expenditure. The group intend to do a Survey Monkey to ascertain community views. The Chair suggested that the group come to the UCVO office and look at their Grant Finder software.

5.0 Spaceport:

Presentation attached.

6.0 Comhairle Budget Setting:

Comhairle approach at the moment is for a:

Strategy that covers the term of Comhairle

Savings from annual 1% efficiency: £10m redesign programme

Development of Charters for more efficient partnership working

Community Empowerment – Second phase starting shortly

Use of balances to smooth budget whilst savings realised

Prioritisation of services by Comhairle should it be necessary to look at cuts

Income generation targets in both Capital and Revenue to offset the economic impact of the reduction in the Comhairle's grant funding

7.0 **Police Report:**

Jan/Feb 2019 - North Uist Beat

Calls of note: 7 calls associated with the North Uist Beat since last meeting. The majority of these are related to Road Traffic incidents.

Crimes recorded: 1 drink driver stopped by police.

Incidents of note: New Sergeant coming to the islands soon, just waiting on a transfer date. Sgt Barry Kirkland is coming from Irvine and will be based at Benbecula, but will have oversight of all the Uists and Barra.

Unfortunately the speed detection device has been out of commission while it's away getting its annual calibration on the mainland. It's been gone for weeks, but it's due back shortly and will be back in use.

8.0 **Councillors Report:**

8.1 **Dentistry:** Still no progress on a decision reference dentistry provision.

8.2 **Housing:** Plans for house building in North Uist progressing albeit slowly. A further site at Claddach Illeray currently being looked at.

8.3 **Uig Works:** It seems that the work at Uig will need to be extended. We are now potentially looking at a 12 week closure because work needs to be done to the roundhead as well as replacing the linkspan. This works will be done some time in 2020. Still no agreement as to when period of closure will happen.

8.4 **Islands Deal:** Slow progress on the Islands Deal. Discussions still ongoing with both governments. The amount initially requested seems to have reduced significantly.

8.5 **Loganair:** There had been a 6% increase in passenger numbers through Benbecula airport which is to be welcomed. There will be a number of extra flights between Benbecula and Glasgow during the summer. These will be flown using jets which Loganair are adding to their fleet.

8.6 **Care Home Charges:** The proposed 33% rise has been significantly reduced down to 3%.

9.0 **Matters raised by members of the public:**

9.1 **Lochmaddy:** The fence across from the church has been fixed.

However the ponding of water at Kersavagh remains a problem.

- 9.2 Kilmuir Cemetery:** The issue of rabbit infestation remains a problem which is difficult to resolve according to the department. We are also still awaiting more robust signage.
- 9.3 Scottish Water:** A request had been made to ascertain if there were plans to replace the pipes running down to the village of Hougharry.
- 10.0 Correspondence Received:** The Treasurer had received plaques which had been donated by Sarah Simpson, Tigharry. The plaques which commemorated the First World War were exhibited at the meeting. Members were very appreciative of the donation and it was decided that the plaques would be installed in Grimsay, at the Clachan War Memorial and Berneray War Memorial.
- 11.0 Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on Monday 25th March in Lochmaddy Hall.