



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 22 APRIL 2019 AT 7.30PM

Present: Sheena Stewart – Chair
Cllr Uisdean Robertson – Secretary
John MacDonald – Treasurer
Terry Wakeling
Effie Rodger
Donald A MacLennan
Joan Ferguson
Jessie Morrison
Sarah MacDonald
Ragnall Maclain

Apologies: Flora MacDonald – Vice Chair
Cllr Iain M MacLeod
Cllr Roddy MacKay
Donald E Morrison
Gavin McDevitt - Police

Public: Cllr Iain A MacNeil
David Newman

1.0 Adoption of Minute:

Minute was approved with one amendment:
Rae MacRitchie should read Rae Anderson

Proposed: John MacDonald
Seconded: Terry Wakeling

2.0 Statement of Account:

Accounts were almost ready to be sent to the Finance Department for auditing. The amount of £10,900 had been received for Playpark spend. This money was for the whole of Ward 2. Areas considered were Taigh Sgìre Sholais, Langass Woodland, Lochmaddy, Balivanich and Ford Terrace.

There was an option for the Community to take over control of playparks. Some money was also available for planters.

3.0 Matters Arising from the Minute:

3.1 MOWI:

Nothing new to report on progress with ownership of slip.

3.2 Registered Social Landlord:

Still awaiting response from Comhairle Chief Executive on his meetings with Civil Servants in Edinburgh.

3.3 Spanish Bridge:

Although £40,000 had been secured for work on the bridge nothing can be done until the 2014 survey has been updated.

3.4 Sgoil Uibhist a Tuath:

Issue of lights at night has still not been sorted.

3.5 Deer:

A foot count of deer had been undertaken last week. The problem along the West side is significant with a number as large as 40 being seen on one croft. A new syndicate has taken over the shooting rights at Newton Estate. There also appears to have been a significant increase into the numbers of ravens and crows. Agreed issue to be raised with Crofting JCC. Action – Invite Estate Factor to meeting.

3.6 Defibrillators:

It was agreed that refresher training was needed. It would also be of benefit if we had a locally based trainer. The last training undertaken had been some time ago. More visible signage of where defibrillators were sited was also needed. Checks on pads and batteries to be done. Agreed to check if funding can be sourced to help with the various costs.

3.7 Creagorry Co-op Parking:

The Comhairle have agreed to write Co-op management to get the Traffic Regulation Order in place at the Co-op's. This will assist the Police in being able to charge those who abuse the parking.

3.8 Flag competition:

The community flag paperwork has been submitted to the Court

of the Lord Lyon. The competition will be launched locally on 9th May. Submissions will be accepted until 7th June with voting on finalists taking place during July.

3.9 Kallin Ice Plant:

Keep monitoring progress on its removal.

4.0 Nursery Transport:

Transport provision for the person who raised the complaint with the Community Council has been sorted.

4.1 National Islands Plan:

Consultation meeting for North Uist will be in Carinish Hall on 17th June at 2.15pm.

5.0 Police Report:

There have been 10 calls in North Uist since the last meeting.

Road Traffic 1
Alarm 1
Drugs 1
Assault 1
Lost Property 1
Bail Offending 1
Miscellaneous non-criminal 4

(Miscellaneous non-criminal relates to things like calls from other agencies, for example ambulance or court service, about non-criminal or information matters).

There were three recorded crimes in the area over the period:

Assault (person charged)
Breach of Bail (person charged)
Drugs (Investigation ongoing).

6.0 Councillors Report:

6.1 Spaceport: No update since last meeting.

6.2 Dental: No agreement has been reached on a final decision on the dental situation. It was agreed to write the Comhairle expressing our frustration on the length of time taken.

6.3 CMaI: A number of concerns were raised in relation to the plans. Of particular concern was the roundabout proposal. Also the issue of the pier area being closed off and the use of a booth. This might impact on sale days particularly. A list of

concerns will be given to the Comhairle so that they can respond to them.

- 6.4 HHP:** Councillors had met with the HHP Board in Balivanich. Of particular concern was the lack of progress with house building in Uist.
- 6.5 H I E:** Cllrs Robertson and MacNeil had been invited to meet with the H I E Board when they were in Benbecula on 29th April.
- 6.6 T I G:** Engagement with TIG was progressing well. They have held a number of information events in Uist over the last few months. A new member of staff has been appointed in Uist.
- 6.7 Countryside Trust:** A number of locally based people had indicated a willingness to form a Countryside Trust for Uist and Barra. This would be useful in terms of getting external funding and would manage such things as the maintenance of the Hebridean Way.
- 6.8 Emergency Planning:** Councillors had raised concerns with the Chief Executive about the lack of an Emergency Planning function in Uist and Barra.
- 6.9 Lochmaddy Waiting Room:** It appears that there are plans to move the two Comhairle employees from the old waiting room building. This if it went ahead would cut down significantly the space in the waiting room if office accommodation was being provided for the two workers.
- 7.0 Matters raised by members of the public:**
- 7.1 Abandoned Cars:** Reference was made to a number of abandoned cars in various areas. This will be discussed with Police at our next meeting.
- 7.2 Loch Taravaig:** An issue was highlighted in regards to Loch Taravaig which is beside the Clachan Lochmaddy road. This is a loch which has fish cages on it. It was stated that dead salmon were to be seen along the loch edge. Secretary will investigate by speaking to relevant parties.
- 7.3 Coastal Erosion:** Concerns raised in relation to the speed of coastal erosion in certain areas of land had been significant in some townships.
- 7.4 Library:** Reduced hours in the library at Liniclate was highlighted. This was due to the librarian relocating to the mainland.

8.0 Ardheisker:

A member of the community has expressed a concern about the proposed works at the old cottage at Ardheisker. This showed that the thatch would be heather rather than the traditional marram. However members felt that it was of benefit to the area that the cottage was going to be renovated. Heather was seen to be a more robust thatching material and would last longer.

9.0 Newton to Lochportain Crossroads:

B T cable to be cleared where Scottish Water mains pipe work had been done.

10.0 Sealladh Hiort:

Sealladh Hiort intend to make an outline planning application to the Comhairle for their proposed centre. David Newman gave an outline of their plans at the meeting. Members were happy to front the application and agreed £250 in Ward funding.

11.0 Benches:

Raghnall to organise situating benches at agreed locations. Benches at War Memorial need replacing but this is a very exposed site. The possibility of concrete benches being more suitable was discussed. The Chair also highlighted that a Lifestyle Lottery Award was being made to the Association of Community Councils. The funds would be distributed to all Community Councils for use in their areas – Sollas Co-op and Clachan Junction were mentioned as potential sites.

12.0 Community Planning Partners:

The North Uist and Benbecula Locality Plan was being discussed at various events throughout the area. Rather than have separate meetings it had been decided to hold events as part of other organised meetings. One had already taken place at a CEUT meeting and another one was due to take place in Grimsay shortly. Further engagement will take place in all localities over the next few months.

13.0 Ward Funding:

The following awards were agreed:
Taigh Sgìre Sholais 80th Anniversary Ploughing competition - £300.
Sgoil Uibhist a Tuath mainland trip - £400.

14.0 Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be on Monday 27th May in Hosta Hall.

