



# North Uist Community Council

## Comhairle Coimhearsnachd Uibhist a Tuath

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### **NORTH UIST COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN CARINISH HALL ON MONDAY 24 JUNE 2019 AT 7.30PM**

**Present:** Sheena Stewart – Chair  
Flora MacDonald – Vice Chair  
Cllr Uisdean Robertson – Secretary  
John MacDonald – Treasurer  
Cllr Roddy MacKay  
Ragnall Maclain  
Jessie Morrison  
Ken MacDonald  
Cllr Iain M MacLeod  
Donald E Morrison

**Apologies:** Sarah MacDonald  
Joan Ferguson  
Donald A MacLennan

**Public:** Ewen Morrison  
Cllr Iain A MacNeil  
Ann MacNab  
Angus MacNab  
Jackie Petrie  
Alison Cropper  
George Jackson  
Angus MacDonald  
Jean Archer  
Andy MacKinnon  
P C Elizabeth MacKay

#### **1.0 Adoption of Minute:**

The minute was agreed with one amendment that Anne MacLellan be added to the thanks reference defibrillator.

**Proposed:** Donald E Morrison  
**Seconded:** Flora MacDonald

## **2.0 Statement of Account:**

The accounts were now back from Stornoway after being audited. The £10,900 from the Comhairle for playparks has now been put into our account. A meeting with the CLD worker will have to be organised. Three areas in North Uist are to be involved. They are Langass Woodland, Sollas and Lochmaddy. Interested parties in Benbecula will also have to be included.

## **3.0 Matters Arising from the Minute:**

### **3.1 Abandoned Cars:**

Mr Morrison was present at the meeting to give a rundown on the avenues currently available to collect abandoned and scrapped cars. In the last year he had collected 150 end of life vehicles. What was currently needed was a site where such vehicle could be stored so that fuel, oil and tyres could be removed. Secretary will enquire if a site would be available at Market Stance.

### **3.2 Loch Tormasaig:**

The site has now been visited a couple of times by Environmental Health Officers. The site is now clear but all dead fish would have been eaten by birds. Scottish Salmon had indicated that there had been a problem with Algae. They have said they will continue to monitor the site closely.

### **3.3 Benches:**

The benches will shortly be placed in situ. A small amount of extra funding will be needed to purchase the various materials needed to fix the benches in the designated area.

### **3.4 MOWI:**

Still waiting a response from the Estate Solicitor reference the acquiring of the slipway at Cheesebay.

### **3.5 Housing:**

Plans to house a seminar in Uist in regarding to housing needs are being followed up currently.

### **3.6 Spanish Bridge:**

Work still ongoing to find a solution.

**3.7 Deer:**

Christine Macleod, North Uist Estate will be invited to the next meeting so that we can have an in depth discussion on the ongoing problems being encountered by deer encroachment. Comhairle still awaiting a response back from SNH on the other ongoing issue of greylag geese, barnacle geese, crows, ravens and sea eagles.

**3.8 Defibrillators:**

The chair will follow up with MOWI their commitment to provide 2 community based defibrillators in Lochportain. One AED will be situated at the fish farm site but a suitable site has yet to be confirmed for the second unit.

**3.9 Creagorry Co-op Parking:**

The Comhairle officer has written the Scottish Co-op on this issue but no response back to date.

**3.10 Flag competition:**

170 entries had been received for the three areas. There were 60+ for North Uist. These were whittled down to four designs. The designs are due to appear in the July issue of Am Paipear so that the community would choose what their preferred design was. There would be a closing date for returns by mid August.

**3.11 Kallin Ice Plant:**

Lewis Builders had been given the contract to dismantle the ice plant so at some point over the next few weeks the site will be cleared.

**3.12 National Islands Plan:**

The meeting in Carinish Hall was attended by approximately 40 people. We should be getting back a report on what the priorities raised at the meeting were and if we were in agreement with how they had been gathered by the consultants.

**4.0 Police Report:**

27 calls in North Uist Beat this month.

Drugs – 2  
Concern for Person – 1  
Neighbour Disputes – 5

Other Assistance Calls – 10  
Information Only – 4  
Disturbance – 2  
Road Traffic Offences – 3

**Recorded Crimes:**

Misuse of 999 – 1 person charged  
Drugs – 2 enquiries ongoing  
D/D – 1 person charged  
Disorder – 1 person charged  
R T O – 1 person charged.

**5.0 Councillors Report:**

**5.1 Spaceport:** There was significant criticism of how management of information relevant to the application had been handled by the Consortium. At the only presentation given by the Community Council a commitment was given that a further presentation would be given by Easter time. The commitment given now was for mid-July when half the island is on holiday. The view was that those who were more informed had not put the relevant information before the whole community as they should have. It was stated by members of the public present that the handling of the issued was dishonest. There was a need for the whole story and not just spin. There needed to be a public meeting with the Consortium where those with the necessary technical expertise were present. More transparency and hard facts on the table. The issue of the number of jobs had to be settled. Was it to be in the order of 60+, or more in the order of low teens. Would jobs be highly paid skilled jobs or would they be in the lower paid category. The concerns on fuel storage and safety aspects were also discussed.

**5.2 STAG Process:** a consultation on the Outer Hebrides ferry service was being carried out at the moment. This would be looking at Short Term, Medium Term and Long Term plans. A view of RET was also due to take place. This would look at such things as different pricing mechanisms, priority schemes for islanders etc.

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

**6.1 Cyclists:** There was a view that we should not promote a too negative view of cyclists. It was stated that the number through Uist and Barra had been in the order of 10,000. There was a clear view that single track roads did present difficulties and that both cyclists and car drivers needed to exercise caution. More information in the form of leaflets, possibly training would be helpful. There was a role for O H T and the secretary was due to meet Rob MacKinnon shortly and would highlight the points being made by the community Council and others.

- 6.2 Tick/Lyme Disease:** This is an issue of particular concern to us in Uist. Isabel MacInnes of Western Isles NHS had done a lot of work on this. An excellent poster with good information has been prepared and needs to be distributed widely. Would be particularly useful on the Calmac ferries.  
Secretary to check with Calmac and Gail Robertson, Communities Board.
- 7.0 Correspondence Received:**  
No correspondence received.
- 8.0 Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on Tuesday 20th August in Lochmaddy Hall at 7.30pm.