

## Pairc Community Council Meeting

Thursday 25th March 2021, 7pm - Virtually via MS Teams

**Present:** Morris Black (Chair)  
Lyndsay Montgomery (Vice Chair)  
Karis Beattie (Secretary)  
Louise Nicolson (Treasurer)  
Anna Macleod  
David Skene  
Doro Reider,  
Councillor John Mitchell

**Apologies:** Councillor Grant Fulton  
Councillor Paul Finnegan  
Angus McDowall

Attending: Fiona Stokes

### 1. Confirm Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from 25<sup>th</sup> February were proposed as accurate by Louise and seconded by Karis.

### 2. MCWFT Small Grant - Vote outcome

Following an online poll of all committee members, there were 3 successful applications for the small grant - Pairc Historical Society (£2000), Pairc Playgroup (£1000), Pairc School & Parent Council (£2000).

**It was decided that:** Garyvard Grazing Committee's application (£1000) had received the least votes but will be rolled forward into next year's applications. The fund for 2021/22 will therefore be for £4000.

The process for deciding on successful applications moving forward was discussed, but a decision was deferred until the next meeting. Options are to advertise the fund widely then:

- Operate on a first come first served basis. But, this may deplete the fund early in the year and leave nothing for projects later on.
- Make half the fund available every 6 months with a deadline to submit applications in either March or October. But, this would leave projects submitted in April waiting a long time for a result.
- If the fund is oversubscribed a voting system could be put in place.

### 3. Taigh Celidh Update

The sub group (Karis, Louise, David & Morris) have met to review the Crown Estate funding received and what can be achieved. An informal survey will be conducted with the community to investigate the launderette proposal and in the meantime general improvements will be made to the building.

**It was decided that:** Karis is to send a draft community consultation to the group for approval including a summary of the plans for the building.

### 4. Playpark Update

Morris reported on the preliminary survey of the playpark and a ball park figure of £1500 for conducting the work required to bring it up to a useable standard. This cannot take place until Covid restrictions allow.

### 5. Ward Funding

John gave an overview of the ward funding available via the councillors. There is £1k left over from this year which will be carried forward seeing £16k available for the Harris & S Lochs ward from April 2021. Applications can be up to £2k and made by emailing any of the councillors. Having some match funding in place is viewed favourably, but most important is that a project demonstrates community benefit and a focus on youth and elderly. It is allocated on a first come first served basis, but is left until the autumn for a decision.

John also updated the group of the latest Crown Estate position. The next round of CE funding has not been announced yet.

### 6. Gravir School

The group discussed the threat that Pairc school will close at the end of the 21/22 academic year, if pupil numbers do not improve (there are currently 13 children at the school). A precedent seems to have been set recently with Bernera school, which has been mothballed rather than fully closed when their numbers fell to 3. PCC have written to HHP to request that families with primary age children are prioritised for any vacant houses in Pairc. The Pairc Trust has commissioned a feasibility study into building 6 new houses

in Habost aimed at bringing new families to the area. The group discussed contacting the new Education Director, William Macdonald, to make him aware, among other things, of the innovative methods for outdoor learning introduced at Pairc school, which are now being adopted as good practice for other schools across the islands.

**It was decided that:** Karis & Lyndsay will draft a letter which will open up discussion with the new Director and see what his view on viability of the school is.

## **7. AOCB**

Doro made the group aware of a questionnaire being circulated by the Scottish Government Islands Team about how to open up to Tourism as Covid measures are relaxed. There is a very tight deadline on responses and it was seen as a scoping exercise rather than informing a decision.

Louise asked for confirmation from the 'Santa on Tour' group on how remaining funds are to be shared between Pairc School & Pairc Playgroup. Lyndsay to find out and let Louise know.

Fiona is to be paid at the end of the financial year for the clerking duties.

The Area Forum AGM is taking place on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March and all were encouraged to attend and spread the word. An email has been received about a 'Pursuit Hebrides Roadshow' which offers a heavily discounted fun day for families in Pairc.

**It was agreed that:** Karis is to respond to say there is support for running an event in Pairc.

**8. Date of next meeting:** Thursday 29th April 2021 at 7pm, via MS Teams. This will be the Annual General Meeting.