

Pairc Community Council Meeting

Thursday 25th November 2021, 7.30pm – via MS Teams

Present: Morris Black (Chair)
Louise Nicolson (Treasurer)
Lyndsay Montgomery (Vice Chair)
Doro Reider
Anna Macleod
Angus McDowall
David Skene
Iain Nicolson
Margaret Mackin

Apologies: Karis Beattie (Secretary)
Norry Macleod
Councillor Grant Fulton
Councillor Paul Finnegan

Attending: Fiona Stokes
Councillor John Mitchell

1. Welcome & Apologies

Morris welcomed everyone to the meeting and the apologies were noted.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the 28th October 2021 were proposed as accurate by Iain and seconded by David.

3. Matters Arising

4. Sgoil na Pairc Statement – The wording has been agreed by all those present at the meeting on 28th September, including the Director of Education at CNES. Copies of the statement will be distributed at the craft fair on 26/27th November, posted on notice boards, shared on social media, sent out in the school bags, sent to the MSPs, included in Lochs News, available at the church hall and in Ravenspoint. (<https://www.facebook.com/pairccommunitycouncil/photos/a.105320451116772/431466038502210>)

5. Taigh Celidh – Iain and David had revised the consultation on the building's use and the group discussed whether to release it yet.

It was agreed that: it should be reformatted so that it fits on 1 sheet of paper. The reference to the online survey should be removed.

On whether it should be made publicly available, further information is required on the title and conditions of sale. The group voted on whether to begin the consultation now and returned 4 votes in favour and 5 votes against putting the information out to the community now.

It was agreed that: Iain will contact CNES for further information and hold back on releasing the consultation at present.

AOCB – Toum Road – The road continues to be category 4 with extra salt left at the side of the road, but PCC will feed into the process for making amendments to the Winter Maintenance Policy. CNES are also considering making the road to Gravir school category 1. (<https://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/roads-maintenance-winter-gritting/>)

4. MCWFT 2021/22 Applications Review

Since advertising the grant from 28th October, only 1 application had been received by the deadline of 22nd November, which was the PCCs own application for Taigh Celidh costs. £1500 will be granted from this round to PCC. £2500 is still available to any community group to apply (they do not need to be formally constituted) before March 2022.

It was agreed that: The community will be reminded that the fund is available. A deadline of 21st January will be set. (NB: See Item 5 for further spend)

5. Xmas Give a Gift – Volunteer Centre

The Lewis & Harris Volunteer Centre have released guidance on their Facebook page for communities wishing to 'Give a Gift, Light up a Life' and run an act of kindness project this Christmas. The group agreed the 'Santa on Tour' event last year had shown the community

that groups in Pairc are pulling together for everyone's benefit. It was suggested a reflective arm band could be included in the gift bag to increase visibility on roads in the dark evenings.

It was agreed that: PCC will organise a similar event this year, using £1000 from the MCWFT small grants fund. Lyndsay to coordinate, Morris to help. £1500 is therefore now remaining from the fund for the Jan 21st deadline.

6. Challenge Fund

David made the group aware of a potential source of match funding that could be used for PCC projects.

It was agreed that: David should investigate further.

7. Playpark Inspection

Morris updated the group on the work required to bring the Gravir playpark up to standard for an inspection, which included:

1. Roundabout - a bearing needs to be replaced and the mats need fixing together
2. Hammock - the locknuts are missing on the shackles
3. Swings – Requires 2.4m chains for both, new shackles and bushes for the top - seats have been provided already
4. See-saw - metal fatigue on the outside panels indicates potential for further damage inside
5. Basket swing – it has never been hung up as a safety shackle is missing – it may also be sited too close to other equipment
6. Climbing unit – the rope and decks need replacing, paintwork needs refreshing, new roof required on the ramp
7. Rubber safety tiles – Need to be weeded and glued closer together
8. Fencing – could ideally be replaced

£1500 has already been granted from ward funds towards the repairs.

It was agreed that: Morris will get prices for the materials.

8. Pairc Housing Next Steps

Pairc Trust had arranged a meeting with the CNES Housing team and PCC to discuss the continued lack of housing in Pairc. CNES will be requesting that an underspend on government funding could be redistributed via means other than via the Registered Social Landlord – Hebridean Housing Partnership. There are issues around the capacity for HHP to deliver enough housing, which could be reconciled by contractors being compensated to also provide housing. PT and PCC will continue to push for housing to be built in Pairc, to redress the imbalance created by HHP housing being built mostly in Stornoway. The CNES Local Housing Strategy 2017/18-2021/22 sets a target that new affordable housing should be provided on a ratio of 55% in rural areas and 45% in the Stornoway area in support of the population and regeneration agendas. (<https://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/media/16977/comhairle-nan-eilean-siar-ship-dec-2020.pdf>)

9. Ward Boundary Change May 2022

John Reminded the group of the upcoming councillor elections in May 2022 and the removal of Pairc from the South Lochs & Harris ward to return to the Lochs ward. He advised PCC to be proactive in contacting those who will be standing in Lochs, to ensure their backing is given on Pairc's case for schooling, housing and services. Ideally someone from Pairc should stand to ensure the local view is not lost in a ward with a higher population elsewhere. It would be important to be clear on Pairc's priorities from the outset.

10. AOCB

Crown Estates Funding – The next round has finally been announced and will see approx. £145k available for Harris & S Lochs. Rather than a split by population, the councillors have agreed to divide the allocation 4 ways, with Pairc receiving 25% - £36k. CNES continue to work on a report on the previous 2 rounds.

Fly Tipping – There continues to be rubbish left outside of the skip in Gravir.

Defibrillators – 4 new batteries have been purchased. 2 have been installed in Lemreway & Marvig with the machines in Ravenspoint and Cromore to be done shortly. Louise has been talking to Angus Morrison about an error on the Ravenspoint machine – another unit will be swapped into its place while the faulty unit is fixed.

11. Date of Next Meeting - Thursday 27th January at 7.30pm via MS Teams.