

North Uist Community Council

Comhairle Coimhearsnachd Uibhist a Tuath

Lochmaddy Hall, 19:30, Tuesday 19th November 2019



Present

John MacDonald
Sarah MacDonald
Joan Ferguson
Donald Ewan Morrison
Ragnall Maclain
Lee MacDougall
Kenneth MacDonald
Rachel MacLean
Marion MacCorquodale
Conor Lawless (stand-in clerk)

The Representative for the CnES Returning Officer: Allan MacDonald

Apologies

Michelle MacDonald

Matters arising from the minutes of previous meeting

None (first meeting of this council).

Agenda

1. *Election of chairperson:*

The Representative for the Returning Officer welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the North Uist Community Council ("the Council") and called for nominations for Chair. Joan Ferguson proposed Sarah MacDonald. The nomination was seconded by Conor Lawless.

It was agreed that Sarah MacDonald be appointed as chairperson to the North Uist community council

2. *Election of vice-chairperson:*

The Representative for the Returning Officer called for nominations for Vice Chair. John MacDonald proposed Joan Ferguson. The nomination was seconded by Ragnall Maclain.

It was agreed that Joan Ferguson be appointed as Vice Chair.

3. *Election of treasurer:*

The Representative for the Returning Officer called for nominations for Treasurer. Joan Ferguson proposed John MacDonald. The nomination was seconded by Donald Ewan Morrison.

It was agreed that John MacDonald be appointed as Treasurer.

4. *Appointment of Clerk*

The Representative for the Returning Officer called for nominations for Clerk.

It was agreed that the Clerk would be appointed at the next meeting of the Council when Michelle MacDonald was due to be in attendance. Conor Lawless agreed to take minutes for this meeting.

5. *Draft Constitution*

The Representative for the Returning Officer suggested some minor edits to standard template

AP The Representative for the CnES Returning Office to forward electronic version to chairperson for signature.

AP Chairperson to gather email addresses of members absent from meeting.

It was agreed that a quorum of three members was too small to be representative of the community, particularly when there are currently 13 members. It was agreed that we change quorum size (section 6.5 of constitution) to 6.

AP Chairperson to edit section 6.5 of constitution to define quorum as 6

AP Chairperson to forward updated version to all members by email for review.

It was agreed that the Constitution would be reviewed and a final version approved at the next meeting of the Council whereupon the signed document would be returned to the Comhairle.

AOCB

6. *Training for office bearers:*

At a meeting earlier in the year the committee was accused of being secretive by a member of the public in a fairly confrontational manner. This was an example of a challenging situation that our new chairperson might face. Training in how to handle situations like that would be beneficial. The Representative for the Returning Officer mentioned that members would receive a folder of information from CnES and that there would be seminars run during the year.

AP Representative for the Returning Officer to contact Derek MacKay at CNES to ask about training for community council office bearers.

7. *Transparency & publication of minutes:*

It was pointed out that community council minutes are recorded online on the [e-sgire website](#) and that hard copies are usually posted in the local shops. It was agreed that we should do more to promote the council's role and its work online (i.e. on the internet and on social media: Facebook and Twitter). Approval of minutes offline to speed up reporting of progress from meetings was discussed.

AP Conor Lawless to research how minutes could be approved electronically before meetings to allow early publication

AP Conor Lawless to investigate setting up online presence for NUCC

Discussed making contact details of members available to the public via flyers (in library van?), website, newspaper article. It was agreed that email addresses preferable to publishing telephone numbers: keeps record of conversation. Also need to publish dates of meetings and fact that council has funding to support local organisations. General feeling that people should feel free to attend council meetings as an alternative to discussing problems with council members privately. Suggestion boxes as an alternative to email etc. were proposed.

AP Joan Ferguson to contact Stephen Morrison at Am Pairear about promoting North Uist Community Council

8. *Lochmaddy pier*

Expect there will be a public meeting about pier upgrade, organised by CalMac. All members present gave their email addresses in order to receive updates.

9. *Statement of accounts*

General fund available to support local organisations. However we need correct, updated "self-funding" and "councillors ward fund" forms to be able to make grants.

AP Rachel MacLean to ask Cllr Uisdean Robertson for electronic, copies of relevant forms updated with new office bearers details so that we can begin.

Wonder if clerk still eligible for honorarium? Hasn't been drawn for 12-13 years.

AP Joan Ferguson to find out if clerk honorarium allowed.

10. *Christmas dinners*

Funds available to support local christmas dinners (for elderly?), however nobody has applied yet. Usually four big dinners around North Uist. Not clear if NUCC have ever supported the dinner at Trianaid?

AP John MacDonald to check if Trianaid have ever received funding from community council for christmas dinner

AP Joan Ferguson to get application form together for Trianaid

11. *War memorial fund*

AP John MacDonald to get written quote for replacement of existing benches for memorial at Clachan

12. *Date of next meeting*

Lee MacDougall can't attend meetings on Mondays

Conor Lawless off island 9th-12th December

It was agreed that time of meetings should be 19:00 instead of traditional 19:30

Even though the constitution mentions meetings every three months, council typically meets every month, should at least keep frequency up at the start.

Next meeting **Tuesday 10th December 7pm Taigh Sgìre Sholais (Sollas).**

AP Marion MacCorquodale to book the hall