

North Uist Community Council Meeting Comhairle Coimhearsnachd Uibhist a Tuath



MINUTES	Date: 9 th February 2021	Location: Via Microsoft teams
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Present:	Joan Ferguson (Vice Chair)	Conor Lawless
	John MacDonald (Treasurer)	Flora MacDonald
	Michelle MacDonald (Secretary)	Effie Rodger
	Rachel MacLean	Uisdean Robertson Cllr
	Donald Angie MacLellan	Iain MacLeod Cllr
	Ragnall Maclain	
	Kenneth MacDonald	

Apologies:	Sarah MacDonald (Chair)	Roddy MacKay Cllr
	Donald Ewen Morrison	

	Agenda Item
1.	<p><i>Welcome and apologies:</i> JF welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were given from Sarah MacDonald and Roddy MacKay</p>
2.	<p><i>Adoption of minutes/action list:</i> Last meetings minutes were proposed by Joan Ferguson and second by John MacDonald.</p> <p><u>Christmas Lights</u> Positive feedback from the community regarding the Christmas trees and lights. Many people are asking for the same to happen next year.</p> <p><u>Road Flooding</u> Repairs have been done to the area in Ahmore where there was bad flooding.</p>

3.	<p><i>Statement of accounts:</i> JMD to give statement of accounts at next meeting.</p>
4.	<p><i>Councilor's report:</i> Cllr Uisdean Robertson gave the following report:</p> <p>HIAL Angus Brendan MacNeil MP had organised a meeting with HIAL, CAA, Prospect and local stakeholders to discuss the downgrading of Benbecula airport. Community concerns in relation to the loss of good jobs and young families from the island were discussed at length. HIAL promised to look at alternatives in order to mitigate loss of important jobs in the community. A further two meetings of the petitions committee are to be held. One on 17 February with HIAL and CAA and one on 24 February with the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and Transport Scotland. A list of prepared questions have been sent to the committee by the community and MSPs and also to Highlands and Islands List MSP Rhoda Grant. There is also an intention to submit a further petition on the make up of the HIAL board.</p> <p>AIR SERVICES Currently Loganair are operating a skeleton air service, this is supported by Scottish Government because it is not commercially viable because of low numbers of travellers. This is supported until the end of March and at that time it will be reviewed. The flight comes in from Glasgow to Benbecula onward to Stornoway and Inverness and then back again. The current PSO between Benbecula and Stornoway comes to an end at the end of March. PSOs are four years in length and because of the current situation negotiations have been held to extend for one year.</p> <p>FERRIES A further delay on the expected date of 802 has been announced. It is now expected to be ready for sea trials either at the end of December 2022 or the beginning of 2023. A three month crew familiarisation has also been announced. This is because of the LNG provision on the new ferry. It is hoped that this familiarisation process can be cut back if crews can have time on the Glen Sannox which is supposed to be in service the year before.</p> <p>PORT UPDATES Lochmaddy: Enablement works at Lochmaddy are due to start in the next few weeks. This involves the moving of power lines, telephone lines and water supply. There is also work to be done on knocking down a couple of buildings on the site and also preparing an accommodation area. For the remaining works there will be a two stage process. It is hoped that a tender award can be made by the end of August this year with work completed by September 2022.</p>

	<p>Uig: Three or four expressions of interest have been received for the works at Uig pier. Tender returns are expected at the end of March. Funding has then got to be agreed by Transport Scotland. If all goes well it is expected that works could start by the end of summer. The linkspan in Uig has to be replaced as well and it is hoped although not confirmed that work on that would start in October 2022 and be completed by March 2023.</p> <p>Tarbert: The work in Tarbert should be finished by September of this year.</p> <p>BUDGET MEETINGS</p> <p>Budget meetings are due to be held on 23 and 24 February. We are thankful that currently no plans to remove the Benbecula/Stornoway air service or close the Balivanich offices, both these items were in the original proposals but were red line items for the local councillors. However it has to be noted that the Comhairle have significant savings to find an will no doubt impact on provision of services locally.</p>
5.	<p><i>Access and linking paths North Uist:</i></p> <p>Conor gave presentation on his suggestion to apply for funding to improve and maintain tracks to local beaches. MMD to send proposal round to all members and will discuss feedback at next meeting.</p>
6.	<p>AOCB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - KMD raised the issue of litter around North Uist, there was a suggestion of possibly starting a volunteer group to do clean ups. - Well done to Donna MacKinnon and Katlyn Morrision for their sponsored cycle to raise money for Conor's daughter, Wren's, new wheelchair. - JMD raised the issue regarding the bins at Lochmaddy pier blowing over, wondering if a compound be built to keep them secure? Uisdean to follow up. - Issue regarding flooding in the parking lot at the Lochmaddy bank was raised. Joan to speak to bank. - Update on Spanish Bridge: Angus MacNab is currently looking at designs. Uisdean to follow up. - Many thanks to our local NHS staff and all volunteers for their hard and efficient work with the COVID vaccine roll out. - Rabbits still a problem in Kilmuir graveyard – Councillors to follow up with relevant departments. - Uisdean asked CC members for their opinions on caravanettes and ferry space (Post covid restrictions); suggestion was made

	<p>for there to be restrictions on numbers of caravanettes allowed to book on each ferry sailing.</p>
	<p>Date of next meeting: Tuesday 23rd March at 7PM Via Microsoft teams (POSTPONED TO 6TH APRIL)</p>

