

# North Uist Community Council Meeting Comhairle Coimhearsnachd Uibhist a Tuath



MINUTES	<b>Date:</b> Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> April at 7pm	<b>Location:</b> Via Microsoft teams
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<b>Present:</b>	Sarah MacDonald (Chair)	Flora MacDonald
	Joan Ferguson (Vice Chair)	Connor Lawless
	John MacDonald (Treasurer)	Uisdean Robertson Cllr
	Michelle MacDonald (Secretary)	
	Donald Angie MacLellan	
	Ragnall Maclain	
	Effie Rodger	

<b>Apologies:</b>	Kenneth MacDonald	Roddy MacKay Cllr
	Donald Ewen Morrison	
	Rachel MacLean	
	Iain MacLeod Cllr	

<b>Public:</b>	None	

	Agenda Item
1.	<p><b>Apologies:</b> Joan (acting chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were given.</p>
2.	<p><b>Adoption of minutes/action list:</b> Effie proposed the minutes of the last meeting and Donald Angie second them. <b>Actions list:</b> Uisdean has spoken to the Harbour master regarding the bins at Lochmaddy pier and was told they have been taken away. Uisdean is going to investigate possibility of getting them back if they can be secured to the ground.  Joan spoke with Lochmaddy bank to discuss the flooding in the carpark, email will be sent from the CC email address.</p>

	<p>Uisdean visited the Kilmuir cemetery to investigate the rabbit problem, pictures have been taken to show the disturbance caused by the rabbits.</p> <p>Regarding the Scolpaig access, the land has been advertised, and the access depends on the buyer. <b>Uisdean will get in touch with Alison MacCorqudale for updates.</b></p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><b><i>Councilor's report:</i></b></p> <p><b>AIR SERVICES.</b></p> <p>Currently a skeleton air service is in operation. This is a shared service with Stornoway and is funded by Scottish Government. It is anticipated that that will continue to the end of June at which time it is hoped that flights will be back on a commercial footing.</p> <p><b>ATMS</b></p> <p>The Comhairle received a full briefing from the Chief Executive on the legal options as well as the policy options. The CE is in touch with other Councils and all options are on the table. That of course includes Judicial Review.</p> <p>HIAL have written the Comhairle indicating that they would want to meet up to discuss their plans in order to mitigate the impact on our area.</p> <p><b>HARBOUR WORKS</b></p> <p><u>Tarbert Pier, Isle of Harris</u></p> <p>Construction works ongoing with completion of marine works scheduled by end of September 2021.</p> <p><u>Lochmaddy Pier, North Uist</u></p> <p>Enabling works package No 3 awarded to Macaulay Askernish Ltd; start of construction works imminent.</p> <p>Re-procurement of Main Works Contract ongoing; return and evaluation of first-step expressions of interest (Single Procurement Document - SPD) and issue of Invitations to Tender (ITT) by end of May 2021; evaluation of tenders and submission of updated Final Business Case to Transport Scotland by mid-September 2021; award of Main Works contract by end October 2021; construction completion end December 2022.</p> <p><u>Uig Pier, Isle of Skye</u></p>

Evaluation of tenders ongoing; subject to Transport Scotland and The Highland Council approvals, contract award to successful bidder by end of May 2021; marine construction works period July 2021 to July 2023; proposed linkspan outage (subject to Main Works Contractor programme) 13 September 2022 to 6 February 2023.

Proposed outage of linkspan – current position statement from CalMac:

*Upon an award of contract by THC for infrastructure works in Uig, and the confirmation the contractor can deliver the outage at Uig being between 13 September 2022 and 6 February 2023, CalMac will ensure that the previously agreed service continuity plan (Ullapool – Lochmaddy with no Tarbert sailings) is still valid and amend if necessary. This is required as the plan has been in place for several years now and has not been checked against current timetables and carrying figures (pre-COVID downturns). CalMac will then engage with stakeholders, ensuring they are aware of changes, before publishing timetables in October 2021.*

## **STPR2**

Transport Scotland is undertaking STPR2 to help inform transport investment in Scotland for the next 20 years.

STPR2 focuses on Scotland's key strategic transport assets and deals with strategic transport projects or those projects which materially contribute to the achievement of Scottish Government and Scotland's policy objectives. Specifically, these projects relate to Transport Scotland assets, ports and airports of national significance and principal travel corridors between and within urban areas. STPR2 will prioritise interventions that: reduce the need to travel unsustainably; maintain and safely operate existing assets; make better use of existing capacity; and, targeted infrastructure improvements.

The Rural Transport Working Group (RTWG) was consulted on the STPR2 Option Sifting process insofar as it affects the Highlands and Islands and, in October 2020, Transport Scotland consultants informed the RTWG that options under the following themes would be 'scoped out' of the STPR2 process:

- local roads, unless they provide access to a key port of airport;
- inter-island ferry routes which do not form part of the CHFS or NIFS network;
- island to island fixed links;
- air services;
- funding;
- concessionary travel, including Public Transport fares;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Air Discount and Road Equivalent Tariff schemes; and,</li> <li>• digital connectivity.</li> </ul> <p>Several of these themes represent the strategic objectives of the Comhairle and it has already been pointed out to Transport Scotland's consultants that sifting out these project areas demonstrates a lack of understanding of island transport challenges and an undervaluing of island transport priorities. The sifting out of, for example, air services excludes a fundamental lifeline link for islands communities and calls into question the inclusivity and equity of what would become Scotland's 20 year Transport Plan. In its response to the STPR2 Phase 1 Recommendations and Update, the Comhairle will re-affirm its deep concern about a sifting exercise that has scoped out so many critical areas of island transport.</p>
4.	<p><b>Travel Restrictions:</b> Discussed impact of being in a different tier to the mainland.</p>
5.	<p><b>Dumped cars:</b> More dumped cars at bottle bank at Clachan. Strong demand for scrap car lifting service. Uisdean has tried chasing the matter up with Environmental Health and SEPA but it has proven to be a difficult problem to solve. Uisdean to check if the area around the bottle bank at Clachan belongs to the council or township.</p> <p>Dumped cars also piling up at Blashival corner. Also, a dumped boat at Grimsay, no longer in use due to safety issue. Uisdean to find out if it can be taken away.</p>
6.	<p><b>AOCB:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access routes/paths- Connor is in discussion with Nature Scot regarding funding possibilities, also hoping to apply to crown estate funding. Once funding is secured, next steps can be looked at.</li> <li>• Secretary post – all agreed to back pay Michelle £500 for the last year.</li> <li>• Deer becoming a problem in numerous places in North Uist especially because of the tics. Peter Coldwell chairs the deer group, will invite to a meeting to discuss.</li> <li>• Problem with potholes on the Hougharry road – Uisdean has contacted CnES technical services regarding this.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Date of next meeting: 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7PM</b></p>
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