

# North Uist Community Council

## Comhairle Coimhearsnachd Uibhist a Tuath

MS Teams, 19:30 Tuesday, 26th October 2021



### MEETING MINUTES

#### *Present:*

Joan Ferguson (Chair)  
Conor Lawless (Vice-Chair)  
Michelle MacDonald  
Rachel MacLean  
Effie Rodger  
Ragnall Maclain  
Donald Angie MacLennan  
Kenneth MacDonald  
Cllr Uisdean Robertson

*Public:* David Downham

#### **1. Apologies:**

Flora MacDonald, DE Morrison, John MacDonald, Cllr Roddy MacKay

#### **2. Adoption of minutes & Matters arising:**

Ken proposed and Donald Angie seconded the minutes of NUCC meeting 2

#### *Secretary*

*It was agreed to advertise for a Secretary, Connor & Joan to put a post on FB.*

#### *Abandoned vehicles*

"No dumping vehicles" signage for Clachan, beside recycling bin.

**AP- Uisdean to follow-up.**

#### *Kersavagh Hill*

Uisdean has spoken to Angus MacDonald Roads and repairs should be made very soon.

#### *Baleshare Defibrillator*

Anne MacLean & friends completed their sponsored walk on 16<sup>th</sup> October, £2750 was raised towards the purchase of a defibrillator, well done to all involved.

#### *North Uist & Berneray Transport Group*

Joan has spoken to Donald MacLean (Berneray Community Council) & Diane MacPherson, North Uist Development. Both parties feel it would be beneficial to form a NUCC sub-group including representatives from other groups & sectors from North Uist.

#### *Kilmuir Cemetery*

**AP- Joan, Conor & Uisdean to meet with Iain Campbell (CnES Cleansing Services Manager) 28<sup>th</sup> October on Teams.**

### *Clachan Sands Causeway*

The potholes on the small causeway between Truimisgarry turn & Clachan Sands have been infilled but additional work is still needed. Angus Gillies (Comhairle Engineer) is due to be down in Uist within the next month & will inspect the area when he is here.

### *Recycling Bins*

Recycling bins still to be retuned to Lochmaddy pier. Discussed the possibility of CnES providing more recycling skips for tins & plastics over the summer season.

AP- Uisdean to enquire

### *Provision of Chemotherapy at OUAB*

NUCC has been copied into correspondence from a North Uist resident suggesting that the Health Board should be exploring provision of additional services such as chemotherapy at OUAB rather than patients having to travel to Stornoway. This is particularly relevant in the winter period with associated risk of travel disruption.

AP-Joan to contact local MacMillan nurses.

AP Uisdean to ask if correspondence can be shared with members

### *Communications with the community*

Joan has been in touch with Derek MacKay, CnES to ask for training for NUCC members. NUCC minutes have not been sent on to Belle Anne for some time.

AP-Connor to arrange.

### **3. North Uist Play Parks**

Eilidh Johnson (Community Learning & Development Modern Apprentice) & Jemma MacVicar (North Uist & Benbecula Locality Planning Partnership) are working with Helen Stoddart (Lochmaddy Playpark) & Tigh Sgire Sholais to apply for funding for playparks in Lochmaddy & Sollas. There is an underspend in the maintenance budget for Comhairle playparks. Sadly, Lochmaddy Playpark have been badly let down by promises of work by JRC. Playpark equipment has been completely removed from Bayhead. Uisdean was unaware of this.

### **4. Deer Management Group Consultation**

Deer are a widespread issue in North Uist. Concerns have been raised by members of the public many times at NUCC meetings.

AP- Joan to attend the DMG meeting at the Dark Island Hotel on the 5<sup>th</sup> November.

### **5. Outer Hebrides Flood Risk Management Plan** consultation (deadline 31st October)

The plan is generated by SEPA, the document highlights the effects that global warming may have on North Uist by 2050. There are a number of areas across North Uist that are already affected with high tides.

Hi Trans are working on an application to the Scottish Government for a feasibility study to be undertaken on Baleshare Causeway.

The chair asked committee members to provide feedback on areas of concern. Uisdean suggested meeting with Donald John MacDonald (Comhairle Engineer, Uist) to discuss priority areas. Ken brought attention to a Scottish Government map that shows the whole of North Uist as a high risk area.

AP- Members to send feedback on areas of concern

AP- Joan & Uisdean to meet with Donald John MacDonald

AP- Ken to send on SG map to Joan

### **6. Aquaculture Stewardship Council consultation** (deadline 31st October)

Report noted. Conor registered NUCC as a stakeholder.

AP Joan to contact Scottish salmon ref- NUCC members visit to Cheesebay site

## **7.National Care Service Consultation** (deadline 1st November)

Report noted.

A new Care Home for North Uist is being discussed as part of the Comhairle Capital programme planned for the next 5 years This will be decided in 2022. As there are many projects across the Western Isles it is important that NUCC make representations to the Comhairle on this matter.

**AP- NUCC to write to Comhairle to ask for a new Care Home for North Uist to be included in the Comhairle Capital Programme**

## **8.Councillor's report**

### **ATMS**

Uisdean met with Inglis Lyon (HIAL) & Aviation Department (Transport Scotland) following e-mail from HIAL ref- ATMS. Whilst there is positive outcome for most locations the downgrading of services at Benbecula & Wick remains a strong likelihood. HIAL are suggesting creation of a FISO Training Centre of Excellence at Benbecula as a mitigation for loss of Air Traffic Control jobs.

CnES will be making further representations to HIAL & Transport Scotland to try and retain the Air Traffic Control service and roles at Benbecula. Uisdean is also engaging with Angus Brendan MacNeil MP on this matter.

### **Air Service**

Concern that renewal of the PSO contract (due in April 2022) that provides the Loganair service between Benbecula- Stornoway will be unaffordable to the Comhairle.

Uisdean has met with the Aviation Department of Transport Scotland (who partially fund the current contract) to ask if they would consider taking over the PSO from the Comhairle, unfortunately that idea has been turned down.

### **Lochmaddy Harbour**

Decision due on tenders early December 2021 with expectation of works commencing in February 2022.Closure dates not yet confirmed for Uig pier. Closure period now extended to between 20 to 24 weeks. Graham Dey (SG Transport Minister) has said that discussion on timetables should commence in November 2021. During the Uig pier closure all sailing from Lochmaddy will be to Ullapool, there will be no sailings from Tarbert. Additional sailings from Lochboisdale have been discussed.

### **Aviation Strategy**

*Uisdean made members aware of an Aviation strategy inviting comments by the end of January.*

## **9.Correspondence**

*E-mail from Gerry Lister for a Lifeboat to be based in North Uist.*

## **10.AOCB**

### **Remembrance Sunday**

Rachel to lay the wreath on behalf NUCC. Thank you to John MacDonald for maintaining the area at Clachan War Memorial. The new solar lights which John has purchased personally, light up the war memorial beautifully.

### **Parking at Bayhead Shop**

*Complaints have been raised with Donald Ewen on the condition of the car park at Bayhead Shop. Joan has spoken to Allan MacLean, he advised that the repairs to the car park are the responsibility of the landlord, North Uist Estate.*

**AP- Joan to speak to Christine MacLeod North Uist Estate Factor**

### *Funding*

Another difficult year for community groups unable to partake in their normal fundraising activities. All agreed to support the following groups with funding from Councillors Ward Fund from Uisdean, Roddy & Iain & NUCC Social Fund

	Cost	Ward funding from Cllrs MacLeod, MacKay, Robertson	NUCC Social Fund
SUAT- Christmas party	£1000	£600	£400
NUAA – Langass Santa Run	£375	£300	£175
Grimsay OAP OAP XMAS delivery	£600	£450	£150
Westside OAP OAP XMAS delivery	£600	£450	£150
Lochmaddy Hall OAP XMAS delivery	£600	£450	£150
Tigh Sgeire OAP	£600	£450	£150

Joan asked if councillors would consider contributing Ward funding towards the purchase of Christmas trees for the community. Uisdean was very supportive.

### ***North Uist & Benbecula Locality Planning- Update***

- Jemma has secured £300 for NUCC from WILL (Western Isles Lifestyle Lottery) for the purchase of Christmas lights.
- With funding from WILL, Jemma is co-ordinating Christmas light displays in Lochmaddy, Balivanich & Lochboisdale.
- Consulting with bus users in North Uist & Berneray to give feedback to the Comhairle.
- Daffodil bulbs are available from Jemma for planting in community spaces
- Consulting on the nursery provision in Balivanich with a view to extending this to all areas of Uist.

### ***Abandoned Cars***

Ken MacDonald raised the issue of cars abandoned by a mainland company in various locations round Lochmaddy.

**AP- Joan to follow up**

### **11.DONM**

No date set until a secretary is found.