

# North Uist Community Council



## Comharle Coimhearsnachd Uibhist a Tuath

### NUCC minutes

Meeting held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 at 7.30pm at Lochmaddy Community Hall

#### Present:

Joan Ferguson (**JF**) – Chair  
Conor LawLess (**CL**) – Vice-Chair  
John MacDonald (**JMD**) - Treasurer  
Lynda MacLean (**LML**) – Secretary  
Donald Ewen Morrison (**DEM**)  
Ragnall Maclain (**RMI**)  
Effie Rodger (**ER**)  
Cllr Uisdean Robertson (**UR**)

#### Public:

Jemma MacVicar (**JMV**) (North Uist & Benbecula Locality Planning Partnership)

### 1. Apologies:

Michelle MacDonald, Rachel MacLean, Anne MacLellan, Kenneth MacDonald, Donald Angie MacLennan, PC Nicki Stansfield, PC Joanne Kane.

### 2. Adoption of minutes

Minutes dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 – **RMI** proposed and **JF** seconded the minutes

Minutes dated 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022 – **JF** proposed and **JMD** seconded the minutes

### 3. Matters arising:

#### *Recycling Bins*

Two extra tins and plastic recycling bins to be requested for North Uist, Members agreed that Bayhead Shop and Taigh Chearsabhagh would be good sites for these.

**ACTION: JF** to contact Iain Campbell at CNES with suggestion

#### *Provision of 'just-in-case bags'*

Survey to be progressed.

**ACTION: JF** and **ER** to finalise survey and distribute it

#### *Outer Hebrides Flood Risk Management Plan*

**JF** spoke with Donald John MacDonald (Comhairle Engineer, Uist) who acknowledges issue of causeway closures. Members decided it would be best to have a separate meeting on resilience and emergency planning with a wider area with Donald John and Murdo MacKay (Emergency Planning Team) in attendance. To be planned for later in the year, possibly September time.

**ACTIONS: JF** to arrange resilience and emergency planning meeting for September.

#### *New care home for North Uist*

**JF** will continue with this once new councillors are in post.

#### *Metering Issues*

Still on-going issue for the Islands.

**ACTION: LML** to add post onto NUCC Facebook to see how many in NU are affected.

#### *Ferries*

Representatives from NUCC attended two meetings with Robbie Drummond of Calmac, information of these meetings were distributed to all Members via email.

#### *Clachan War Memorial*

**JMD** is awaiting two quotes for required works.

#### *List of Members onto Facebook*

All Members were in agreement for their name and location to be posted onto the NUCC Facebook page so those in the community know who they can contact within the CC.

*Lochmaddy football pitch*

**UR** confirmed that DSL would do the grass cutting through their contract with the Comhairle.

*Whats app group for members*

Has been set up and working well so far.

#### **4. Co-option of Members**

It was agreed that we are in need of more Members and some areas of NU aren't well represented on the CC - Locheport, Grimsay and Lochportain. Suggestions of people to approach was discussed.

Everyone is in agreement for NUCC to have youth representation and it was suggested a Pupil from Sgoil Lionacleit would be ideal.

**ACTIONS:** **LML** to email round all Members with the suggestions and ask for further suggestions

**CL** to contact Fiona Campbell at Sgoil Lionacleit regarding potential pupil.

#### **5. Police Report**

PC Nikki Stanfield provided a report via email which was read out –

Since the last meeting on 05/04/2022 there have been 10 incidents raised for North Uist, broken down as follows:-

3 x accidental 999 dialling

1 x advice to the public

1 x concern for person

1 x road traffic collision

2 x assist other agencies

1 x ongoing crime

1 x drug crime

The above has resulted in 3 criminal cases being generated, from which 2 persons are being reported to the procurator fiscal and one enquiry still ongoing.

Members were also keen to find out more regarding the changes to the Highway Code and Cyclists.

Nicki provided information in her report, though it was decided to discuss further at our next meeting when we would have a police presence.

**ACTION:** **LML** to send copy of report to all Members.

#### **6. Councillors Report**

**UR** provided a brief verbal update as Councillors are on Purdah so no council meetings have taken place since NUCC last met. **UR** attended Hltrans meeting, notes of this were distributed to Members via email. **UR** also attended meeting with Calmac on proposed changes to their terms and conditions, this has been emailed to all members.

#### **7. Uig Pier Closure/Ferries**

Calmac have a new booking system which is going live in October.

All Members encouraged to read and provide feedback on Calmac's proposed terms and conditions consultation, a discussion was had as Members felt Calmac's current policy of being able to change your booking has been abused previously resulting in the proposed changes.

Calmac have had 188,000 no shows in the last year between all routes.

**JF** advised that she and Donald MacLean (Chair of Berneray CC) met with two members from the Harris Transport Forum, Rhoda Campbell and Margaret MacKenzie. Discussion took place surrounding progressing local consultation of 2 ferries operating on the Uig-Lochmaddy and Uig-Tarbert routes. All parties agreed that neither Harris nor Uist will receive an adequate ferry service unless they have a dedicated vessel on each route. Transport Scotland is willing to discuss this option particularly if there is a willingness from the communities to revert back to a single shared vessel in the winter, allowing the spare vessel to cover overhaul periods across the network.

This lead onto NUCC discussing timetabling and splitting the service in the summer so as there are two vessels, one to serve Lochmaddy to Uig, the other Tarbet to Uig, all members agreed this needs continuously pushed, suggestion to pursue this further once new councillors are in place.

A floating link span suggestion has been put forward to Kevin Hoggs of CMAL.

Next update from Calmac on the Uig Closure is due Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> May.

**ACTIONS:** Members to feedback on Calmac's proposed T&C's, due by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022.

Pursue second vessel for Triangle Route once new councillors are in post.

## 8. Tracks

NUCC have £2000 of funding for tracks. It was discussed and agreed that we would write out to townships offering to apply for the funding stating that the funding needs to be used for tracks that benefit the community and allow access to the public. Only one can be funded but it is hoped further funding may be obtained in the future.

**ACTION:** CL to write out to all the townships offering them the chance to apply for the funding.

## 9. Kilmuir Graveyard

Fence is yet to be reinstated though the wall has been down for a number of months. The rabbits are very bad and burrowing in the graves. It is hoped once it is fenced this will limit rabbit activity.

## 10. Emergency Planning

As per Matters Arising *Outer Hebrides Flood Risk Management Plan* it has been agreed to hold a separate meeting during September to further this.

## 11. Correspondence received

### *Housing*

CL attended meeting on the Remote Rural and Island Housing Action Plan along with other CC's.

CL gave an update from the meeting –

There are a number of other CC who are heavily involved in housing developments in their area though it was agreed that it is too much work for NUCC to take on large projects like this.

There are 110,000 houses to be built by 2032, 10% of which are for the Islands.

There is a Local Development Plan which the Scottish Gov. have suggested that CC feed into.

A discussion took place on the housing situation in Uist at present and the need for more housing on the Island especially for workers and those of the younger generation who are looking to move here to work.

There are 1,000 empty homes in the Western Isles, the Comhairle employ an empty homes officer.

## 12. AOCB

### *NUBLPP*

JMV advised on volunteer day running this Saturday (7<sup>th</sup> May) from 10am at Lochmaddy Playpark to help clear bushes and tidy it up to make it safe. All welcome, lunch will be served in the hall from 12pm with the new proposed design for the park available to view. There is £12k in funding available to the park which includes £5k that is being held by NUCC. Other larger funding applications will be going in by the Playpark committee.

### *Lochmaddy Pier*

There are bins available at the Harbour along with motor home waste disposal though no signs to advise of this. The tap at the pier has also been cut meaning you can no longer attach a hose to it, which limits people being able to make use of it.

**ACTION:** UR will contact Iain MacKinnon re: sign

JMD will take picture of tap and send to both JF and UR

### *Minutes in local shops*

It has been agreed that we should go back to displaying approved minutes in local shops – Bayhead shop, Sollas co-op and Morrison shop, Lochmaddy.

**ACTION:** LML to forward approved minutes to Members who will print and put minutes up into shops.

## 13. Date of next meeting

Next meeting to take place on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022, 7.30pm at Hosta Hall.