

Pairc Community Council Meeting

Thursday 27th October 2022 in person at Tigh Ceilidh

Present: Karis Beattie (Secretary)
Morris (Chair) (Chairing the meeting)
Louise Nicolson (Treasurer)
David Skene
Iain Nicolson
Cllr Robert MacKenzie
Cllr Angus Morrison
Doro Reider
Margaret Mackin
Angus McDowall
Lyndsay Montgomery
Members of the public

Apologies: Anna Macleod

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies noted.
2. Minutes last meeting – August 25th 2022

Proposed - Karis

Seconded – David

Outstanding actions:

Action – Chair to ask Dennis again for an invoice or at least receipt – Ongoing

Action – Chair to order materials for playpark – Holding off further action on Playpark for the time being.

It was noted that an updated form for MCWFT Small Grants Applications will be provided to the CC and this was welcomed by the group.

It was noted that a Wreath has been ordered for the remembrance service in Kershader to be held on the 12th November.

3. Gravir Skip

Concerns were raised by members of the public and two actions agreed.

1. Secretary to put out call for volunteers to assist with the maintenance of the skip service.
2. Iain to investigate the possibility of implementing CCTV at the site in collaboration with Angus McDowall.

It was noted that the conditions the Community Council are required to follow include, among other things, that the skip must be locked between openings, so the skip cannot be left open at all times. It was also noted that there have been around 50 skips over the past 2 years, roughly one every two weeks and that the only disruptions to the service have been down to unavoidable issues at the Comhairle.

Plan for temporary suspension of the skip service remains in place.

4. Gym – Quotes for repairs to machines and annual servicing agreement are now in hand. It had been agreed in principle by members that a Crown Estates application may be made for initial repairs and 1 year servicing. Concerns were raised over the financial viability of a gym in the community. Two actions agreed.

1. To arrange meeting with Pairc Trust to further discuss the future operation of the service before final details confirmed and any Crown Estates application is made.
2. Iain to contact Zurich Insurance to put to them our answers to their questions and ask whether they are happy with the steps we've taken and will there be a change in premium

5. Toum Road –

Secretary had circulated an email with details of the outcome of a site visit with Murdo Macritchie (CNES). Outcome of meeting had been for CNES to arrange ditching of the roadside, scraping out of passing places and erection of safety barriers. Temporary solution for gritting was agreed that Comhairle would request that gritter drivers would be asked to pay special attention to the road this winter. Murdo Macritchie advised that re-prioritisation of the road had to be requested via our Cllrs and this request was made.

Cllr Morrison advised at the meeting that no re-prioritisation of roads are being considered by the Comhairle at present.

Member of the public fed back concerns to Cllrs regarding work already undertaken on the Toum road. Cllrs agreed to pass this on to the relevant department and to request an engineer visit in wet weather.

6. Uisenis Wind Farm Consultation –

Members expressed interest in attending the private meeting at Ravenspoint and a short discussion regarding the potential community benefit of the development followed.

7. MCWFT applications

2 Applications were received in this round –

1. £1000 – Parent Council for Outdoor activities including Scaladale – Approved.
2. £750 – Co Chomunn na Pairc for Christmas Event – Approved.

This leaves £2450 remaining and two action points were agreed.

- To advertise the remaining amount through various channels. –
Secretary to action.
- To contact successful groups and arrange disbursement of funds. –
Secretary and Treasurer to action.

8. AOCB

- The Secretary informed the group that TIG have undertaken an initial survey of the Tigh Ceilidh building and we await their decision and potential proposal for consideration under the empty homes scheme. It was noted that no final decision has been taken by either party and that the empty homes scheme (details here - [New project to restore empty homes in the Western Isles \(hebrides-news.com\)](https://www.hebrides-news.com)) had first been discussed at a meeting in March 2022 with the Pairc Trust, TIG, Hebridean Housing Partnership (HHP), Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and the Community Council present. The organisations present from the district were asked to bring forward potential buildings to utilise this innovative funding opportunity to deliver rural housing.

It was also noted that significant time had been dedicated to outlining the options under the scheme during Community Council meetings and it had been agreed to investigate this opportunity after the potential of housing had been raised by 7 respondents to the Tigh Ceilidh survey. This had been minuted and emails also circulated with details of the scheme. It was however noted that some members had not been aware of the proposal and some confusion remained over the progress made and details of the scheme.

A letter had been received in the interim expressing interest from Pairc Trust to purchase and develop the building into housing after the Community Council had approached the Pairc Trust to ensure they were aware of the interest from TIG and update them on the progress made since the initial meetings with the Pairc Trust present.

A short discussion followed regarding the situation regarding the potential of developing the asset for housing in the community with the various routes and options to deliver housing discussed. It was agreed to return to this item later as it requires further discussion. It was the case that 2 members disagreed, and 2 people departed the meeting at this stage (one member of the public and one member of the Community Council) due to what were felt to be disrespectful comments from the Chair.

- Cllr Morrison gave an overview of a scheme to deliver meals in the district and the CC welcomed the initiative and are open to considering ways they can support the implementation.
- Cllr Morrison gave an update of a proposal being developed to provide Lochs-wide worker post/s to support groups in the district. CC indicated a willingness to be involved in these discussions and to participate if the scheme can be accommodated to the needs of groups in the district.

9. Date of next meeting - Thursday 24th November 7.30pm