

North Uist Community Council

Comhairle Coimhearsnachd Uibhist a Tuath



NUCC Minutes

Meeting held on Monday 5th December 2022 at 7.30pm at Claddach Kirkibost Centre

Present:

Joan Ferguson (**JF**) - Chair
John MacDonald (**JMD**) – Treasurer
Tracey Smith (**TS**) - Clerk
Lynda MacLean (**LML**)
Angus MacLennan (**AML**)
Anne MacLellan (**ANNEML**)
Donald Ewen Morrison – (**DEM**)
Zara Wilkie (**ZW**)
Rachel MacLean (**RML**)
Peter MacNab (**PMN**)
Ragnall Maclain (**RMI**)
Cllr Uisdean Robertston (**UR**)
Cllr Mustapha Hocine (**MH**)

Public:

Amanda Leveson Gower
Lachie MacLean
Paul Wilkie

1. Apologies

Conor Lawless, Effie Rodger, David Downham

2. Adoption of Minutes

PMN adopted the minutes and **ANNEML** seconded.

3. Matters arising

Meetings online in Winter months was discussed. Clerk has poor signal/internet so not available to attend by this means. Highlighted to enforce the need for Wi-Fi across the island, particularly in view of the poor signal currently offered by EE.

It was suggested that the minutes be recorded for use when typing. Everyone present agreed with this.

ACTION: PMN to look into the possibility of using webex or zoom in future.

4. North Uist War Memorial

Thank you to the helpers that helped to clear the bushes. It was real success, more work is ongoing. Thanks to **ZW** for putting down the wreath.

5. Community Benches

Maintenance required for the 5 benches which NUCC previously provided.

6. New Secretary

Tracey Smith was appointed Clerk for NUCC, unanimously agreed by members.

7. Councillors Report

Cost of living support, **UR** advised that it can be accessed via application to be released by the council soon. **MH** Still awaiting details of what will be available from the GOVT.

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Discussions had regarding how best to get funding to those who need it. **MH** suggested that anyone struggling with bills should maybe approach the Community council in the first instance. Any further suggestions or ideas to be forwarded to the Council.

MH advised that the Crown Estate funding has no time limit on it and it may be kept by the Scottish GOVT.

The recent flooding were discussed and it was suggested that the council offer more support, **MH** suggested that crofters could arrange to clear the causeways and their own land to try to prevent flooding.

AML highlighted the standing water and blocked drainage at Blashaval

ACTION: UR and **MH** to discuss further with **AML**

MH advised Campers have been using burial grounds. Council Notices will now be displayed on all cemetery's stating that camping will not be permitted.

8. Challenge Funding

A small pot of money (£1,000) available and can the Community Council match it financially or in kind?

It was suggested that £1,000 be put towards the North Uist War Memorial Fund, all members agreed with this action. **UR** and **MH** also agreed to put £250.00 each towards this.

A tidy up scheme was suggested to be put in place, would there be any incentives from the council? Funding no longer available from the council so this could possibly be done by volunteers.

ANNEML advised that the council will collect any rubbish bags if arranged.

9. Funding requests

Taigh Sgìre Sollas have asked for funding of £400 for Christmas packages. It was agreed that **UR** and **MH** would contribute £150 each and the Community Council would contribute £100.

Storas Uibhist requested funding, the matter was discussed and it was decided that no contribution would be made.

ACTION: LML to make contact with both to advise of decision.

10. Tracks

CL not at meeting but is looking into obtaining assistance to improve access to beaches within North Uist.

ACTION: LML will distribute document from **CL**

11. Defibrillators

The ongoing costs of the upkeep of Defibs was discussed, should these costs be covered by the Community council. Balranald Campsite have been responsible for up keep of the one kept on their site and are happy to continue. A member of the public suggested that local businesses could be approached to sponsor a defib. Training in First Aid and how to use the defibs was suggested. **MH** suggested that crofters may be encouraged to attend the 1st Aid courses.

ACTION: ANNEML to find out how many defibs are held in North Uist.

ACTION: LML to find out where the 5 defibs supplied by the Community Council are located

ACTION: AML to find out more details about 1st Aid courses

12. Ferries

Discussion regarding the ferries. **UR** advised that there was good news in that there will be 2 new ferries for the Lochmaddy – Uig – Tarbert route. The design of which is ongoing. The first one could potentially be in use by 2025 dependent of tender.

It was noted within the meeting that the ongoing issue of the disruption of cancelled ferries is having a knock on affect to many issues. For example teaching within local schools due to staffing issues, teachers are leaving and not being replaced. Islanders are leaving the island. Tourism industry on the island is massively affected.

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The possibility of a letter to all householders advising of the UIG Pier Closure is being considered. **UR** advised that he is attending a meeting on 7th December to discuss.

An open all day meeting was suggested for the ferry issues, maybe at a time when the ferries are being routed to Ullapool. Lochmaddy Estate happy to provide Venison for a curry to be available during the meeting.

MH happy to attend the meeting and answer any queries raised.

13. Correspondence received

The Co-op members fund application has been a successful for the OAP dinners, which is aimed at anyone over 70. A Request was made to anyone who has a member's card to nominate a local cause. If communities do not nominate preferred cause approximately 1/4 of the fund goes off island.

14. North Uist Flag

Are any members willing to take on the progression of the Flag? No one volunteered. Discussion was had regarding the design. Members questioned that if the flag wasn't actually wanted or if the design wasn't correct then why couldn't it be cancelled or changed.

ACTION: LML to forward the design onto Community Members and for the members to share it with the community to gather opinions of the design going forward. Comments to be taken to the next meeting for discussion.

15. Deer Management Meeting

The issues of ongoing deer management was discussed and it was felt that it would be beneficial to progress a way forward with a closer relationship with the Community Councils. NU Estate advised that 13 deer have been culled recently which might make a difference to the overall problems. Christine MacLeod, Factor of North Uist Estate will provide a report of feedback from general public highlighting where the main problems lie. It was suggested by the Estates (North Uist & Newton) that a WhatsApp group be set up to enable people to report any sightings of large groups preferably using What 3 Words to confirm locations.

16. AOCB

Postcode/what3words poster

Thanks to **RMI** for an example of the poster to be displayed in community buildings.

Community clean ups

The organisation of clean ups was discussed. **UR** agreed that a skip could be provided. A suggestion of March/April was a good time to carry them out. Suggested that **George Lesley** could be approached to sponsor a litter pick and for funds to go to the War Memorial.

Foodbank donations

It was noted that it is now too late for donations to food banks for Christmas parcels.

Croft assignations

NU Estate advised on the issue of how thier hands are tied with assignations of crofts.

ACTION: ZW to speak to groups in schools and gain feedback on availability of crofts for the younger generation and bring results back to next meeting.

17. Date for next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held at Claddach Kirkibost Centre on 30th January 2023 at 7.30pm.