

## Pairc Community Council Meeting

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 in person at Tigh Ceilidh, Gravir.

**Present:** Karis Beattie (Secretary)  
Morris (Chair) (Chairing the meeting)  
David Skene  
Louise Nicolson (Treasurer)  
Cllr Angus Morrison  
Cllr Robert Mackenzie  
Iain Nicolson  
Doro Reider

Apologies: Anna Macleod, Margaret Mackin, Angus McDowall, Lyndsay Montgomery

### **Minutes**

#### 1. Welcome and apologies

Chair welcomed all present and apologies noted as per above.

It was noted by all members that they wished to put on record they're condolences to Muriel Gillies due to the dreadful news of the fire at 22 Cromore. Thankfully there were no casualties and our gratitude, as a community, must go to the Gravir station crew who were first to attend and all emergency services staff. They were backed up by fire crews from Stornoway and Harris, all of whom ensured the fire was contained and didn't spread beyond Muriel's house. Thanks were noted for the local fire brigade crew that give up their spare time to provide this service. The quick response of the Church in setting up a hardship fund was also noted as commendable and this is raised again as a decision was made to donate to this later in the meeting.

#### 2. Minutes last meeting – November 24<sup>th</sup> 2022

Proposed – Karis

Seconded – Morris

#### 3. Actions from Previous Minute

- a. Skip CCTV Update – CCTV Cameras procured and a sign to accompany this.
  - i. Action - Sim card details to be downloaded to Community Council computer for data protection purposes and kept under password protection.
- b. MCWFT - £450 remaining in the fund.
  - i. Action – Advertise to try and get used before end of March once checked with Lyndsay.
- c. Senior Citizens Dinner Update – Lyndsay not in attendance, no update.
  - i. Action – Karis to ask for progress report and highlight MCWFT remaining grant availability.
- d. Uisenis Meeting Update – Morris is awaiting a response from the Developer.
  - i. Action – Add to next agenda for update.

#### 4. Councillors Update

- a. Cllr Morrison highlighted the imminent closing of the Challenge Fund. CCnP had hoped to utilise this for a Ravenspoint website – work is ongoing on this and it is hoped an application can still be made.
- b. Warm Spaces Hubs – Cllr Morrison shared that applications were submitted for the following amounts; £7,000 Ravenspoint, £8,000 for North Lochs Community Association and an £6,000 for a voucher scheme (to be administered by North Lochs for the whole Lochs area). £4000 has been granted to Ravenspoint and £4000 for North Lochs thus far. Cllrs still following up on the voucher scheme.

- c. Cllr Morrison shared that cuts are potentially faced across Council services due to funding cuts from central governments.
- d. Cllr Morrison shared details that Crown Estate Round 4 is to be released shortly with an allocation of £100,000 per ward. Details on who is leading this within the Comhairle is yet to be announced for Lochs. This is to be split 3 ways - £33,333 per area (Pairc, Kinloch and North Lochs).
- e. Cllr Morrison shared information that the plan for an administrative graduate post through the Adhartas Trust is still being pursued. One condition with Adhartas is a commitment that half a day a week is devoted to study leave to help achieve the relevant degree. It is envisaged this post holder would work closely with the newly created Community Engagement Unit within the Council promoting and identifying funding projects in the Lochs area. North Lochs and Kinloch are fully committed to signing up to this and there is already a financial contribution from Kinloch and North Lochs committed to support the post for another year from previous Crown Estate revenue rounds.. The question was raised of whether Pairc Area Forum may want to buy-in to this scheme using a proportion of their Crown Estates Round 4 Allocation. Further details were requested on worker-time allocation and financial commitment, and it was noted that the Area Forum has potential projects for Round 4 lined up and any decision to redirect funding to a share in an administrative employee tasked with providing administrative support to smaller groups in Pairc would require a full meeting of the Forum and consensual decision based upon

comprehensive details of the process and financial commitment. Cllrs agreed to continue to update Pairc on any progress. It was also noted that the Pairc Area Forum (through CCnP/Ravenspoint) has a track record of providing bespoke part-time employment opportunities based in the district and available for use by a range of organisations. Cllrs noted that the plan for the new post would be for a 4/5-year post. Cllrs noted that the job role would involve administrative training through the college and funding for the continuation of the post would be dependent on securing funds for this.

- f. Cllr Morrison noted that larger forums are being encouraged to bring together key organisations and ensure a collegiate approach to development. It is therefore likely that Pairc forum will be invited to join a Lochs-wide forum. It was noted that the foundation for a strong Lochs-wide forum must be well-functioning and inclusive local forums which have buy-in from all they key organisations in that community.
- g. Cllr Morrison shared that Participatory budgeting at the Comhairle is being encouraged and further details to follow on this.

5. Tigh Ceilidh Building

Action - Secretary to contact recommended Solicitors to get ball rolling and be guided by their advice on the terms of sale. As a commitment to utilise the TIG Empty Homes Scheme has been secured from PT it was not felt necessary to add further burdens. Secretary to work with fellow Appointed representatives and bring back to full PCC once progress has been made or decisions need to be taken.

6. Pairc Gym

Pairc Trust have requested to change room in which Gym will be located.

Action - Gym Plan to be adjusted and application for CE to be prepared once final details confirmed. Appointed representatives to finalise and send to all members for approval before final application made.

7. Sgoil na Pairc

School roll and transport policy were discussed. Secretary shared details of a response from the Comhairle on the policy as it is undermining rural schools' viability. Cllrs were asked how to escalate this issue as the school is fundamental to a viable community in Pairc with the closest alternative so far away. It was also noted that Pairc is often described as a strong Gaelic-speaking community due to the relatively high level of speakers concentrated in the area – however at this time there is no Gaelic-medium education nor plan to reinstate this in the Pairc School and children are taken out of the district to access this.

Action - Cllr Morrison to set up meetings between Education Department and will liaise with PCC and Parent Teacher Council to set this up.

8. Playpark

- i. Decision - Agreed to investigate with the Comhairle the potential of moving remaining good equipment to the school and officially closing the Playpark. To be raised at the meeting about the school.

9. AOCB

a. Muriel Gillies Fund

- i. Decision – Agreed to liaise with Cllrs to put together a donation of circa £1000 from the Community Council (£600) and Cllrs

(£400). It was also agreed to send a bouquet of flowers with the best wishes from the PCC.

ii. Action – Louise to arrange financial contribution and bouquet.

b. Housing Meeting

i. Secretary detailed ongoing progress and meetings held to ensure a comprehensive list of potential and dismissed house sites is compiled. This is an essential first step in ensuring a coherent approach to planning future development. It was also noted that the Comhairle are able to utilise the HHP underspend for 'land banking' and are investigating securing another site in Pairc to ensure a steady supply of affordable housing to tackle demographic challenges in the district and secure a sustainable future.

10. Date of next meeting - Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm