

BREASCLETE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting: Wednesday 10th May 2023, 7.30 pm via zoom

Present: Jacqueline Ferguson, Cllr Ranald Fraser, Fraser Macdonald, Noreen Macdonald, Angus A. Mackenzie, Anna Macinnes, John Smith, Angus Smith, Lorraine Ballantine

In attendance: Murdo Morrison, Outer Hebrides Tourist Board, Magaidh Smith WITGA

Welcome and Apologies: Apologies: Christina Murray, Alice Murray, Cllr N Macdonald, Kenny-John MacIennan

Minutes of previous meeting: Approved, F. Macdonald, Seconded, A. Smith

Matters arising:

Crown Estate – Delays in some ward, but applicants in this community have now been informed of decisions.

Offshore wind project – Information events to be organised this month by Northland Power.

Bench – work now completed.

School Bus sign – work now completed

Post Office: no objections received, so Notice will be sent by UNT to close the service.

Correspondence: circulated via email. NMacD had sent sample of recycling calendar to Newsletter team. Call for non-exec directors of Western Isles Health Board noted.

Tour Bus Traffic:

Murdo Morrison introduced himself and explained his new role, looking at the infrastructure and impact of tourism, as well as working with UNT to cope with the increasing tourist numbers visiting the island. He spoke about concerns regarding buses using the top road and felt that this was being mitigated substantially by UNT's trade policy, which requires buses to book slots in the centre car park. LB stated that she had noted 12 buses which had used the top road in the last month. She agreed to forward details of those observed, and this would be passed on to the Visitor Centre's tour bus coordinator, who was working to identify bus companies that weren't aware of, or were not using the new Trade Policy.

Magaidh Smith confirmed that the Tour Guides association were aware of local concerns and are on board with UNT's efforts to minimise impact on the local community.

Members agreed that the situation had vastly improved for previous years, where most buses used the top road, and 12 large coaches a day was not unusual. It was recognised that this is a public road, and there would always be some that would use the road.

Cllr Fraser said he would discuss with road department, whether signage could be amended, but was mindful of the need to avoid "signage clutter".

The Chariman thanked Murdo and Magaidh for attending, and contributing to the discussion.

AOB:

School English medium unit. Noted that CnEs would be conducting a review soon of local numbers. Clerk to email Education director and ask for data on enquiries for English medium in the area. Looking ahead, projected school enrolments are good.

Date of Next Meeting: 14th June 7.30pm via zoom.

