

Minute of Meeting: Point Community Council
In: Café Roo, Old Knock Schoolhouse, Isle of Lewis.
On: Monday 1st February 2016
At: 7.30 pm

PRESENT

Donald MacRitchie (Vice-Chair)	Norman MacLeod
Cllr Zena Stewart	Alec John Murray
Chris Mackenzie	Edmund McGregor (Treasurer)
Cllr Alasdair MacLeod	Angus Lamont
Agnes Munro	

APOLOGIES

Matt Bruce (Chair)
Cllr Norman MacLeod

ATTENDING

Lewis Shand
Alanna Goddard (Police Scotland)
D J Macleod (Police Scotland)

The minutes of the meeting of Monday 21st Decemberr 2015 were approved.

2.

Minutes

Proposed by Eddie; Seconded by Angus

Guests attending

Police Scotland issues

Following our meeting in December 2105, Alanna had sent a concise update on each situation to Eddie, who in turn had copied it to all the PCC members. Donald thanked her for this work.

The following matters were discussed.

Zena raised the ongoing issue of dog fouling in public areas and the dangers of youngsters picking up disease. The consensus was that where the dog owners were identified they should be made aware of these dangers and asked to clean up their dogs mess.

The situation of the vandalism and Bayble pier was still the subject of an ongoing investigation, and a positive line of enquiry was being pursued.

CCTV was being installed at the pier and Alex John asked about the legal aspects regarding signs. Alanna suggested he contact the Community Safety officer at the police office in Stornoway for guidance.

The sheep worrying issue in Garrabost : The person involved had been admonished.

Following the break-in at the shop in Knock, one person has now been charged.

Speeding: The Point area was the subject of ongoing speed checks, as was the whole of the island. If specific cars were noted, they should be reported to the police via the 101 reporting number.

On the subject of reports to the police, Alanna advised that the 101 system should be used for “non urgent” contact with Police Scotland. The 999 number should be used for any situation that was deemed an emergency, and where urgent assistance was required.

In the month of January 2016 eight calls were received by the police from Point, all via 101. The only “serious” issue was the theft of items from a shed in Sheshader.

Matters arising from previous minutes

Bus shelters

The bus shelter in Lower Bayble was damaged. Joinery work would be required. Angus had contacted Mr Mackenzie, the CNES Community Service order controller to see if they would undertake remedial works as done previously. There had been no response at this time.

Roads

The situation regarding the state of roads within Point continued to give concern. Short-term repairs were unsatisfactory, and in some cases deemed a waste of time and effort. The only “real” answer was deep permanent repairs as had been carried out in Garrabost, but as we all knew these were costly. The prospect of further cuts in the CNES budget (which was heavily in arrears) would most likely be reflected in even less spend of road works.

Co-option of additional PCC members

Despite an article in the Rhudach, there had been no further expressions of interest in joining the PCC. Current members were encouraged to approach possible new members on a personal basis.

Treasurers report

Eddie had circulated the current financial report to all members.

As in previous years, the PCC would support the Christmas lunches organised within Point.

The 4 groups involved would receive equal amounts (£125) from the “Social Fund”. The groups were Aignish, Swordale and Knock (ASK), Aird Young at Heart, Tumpainhead Community Association, and Cairdean og Allt nan Gall

Councillors report

We were advised that the financial situation within CNES for the coming year was even more challenging than expected with a projected additional shortfall now likely. Ward initiative funding could be under threat and possibly reduced.

It was the explicit and unanimous view of the PCC that this funding was an important, and indeed a critical aspect which would have major implications for projects and goodwill enterprises within our district if reduced.

A meeting of the full CNES council and all island councillors to find out the budget for the forthcoming year (2016-2017) will take place early in February, and then we will know just what measures are being taken to keep the council within its budget.

There was a heated discussion on the critical financial situation facing CNES, on numerous fronts, and it was agreed the PCC should draft a strongly worded letter to John Swinney, the Deputy First Minister expressing our concern about the effects that the funding arrangements between Holyrood and CNES were having on our island, and the infrastructure of local services within Point

Consultation: The Islands Bill

Matt had sent a reply to the feedback request on this proposed legislation.

Planning applications

Eddie had looked at all Point related applications and there was nothing to report.

Training issues

Norman and Zena would speak with Derek Mackay about training early in the new year.

7. Utilities

Broadband service.

Engineering work continues within Point, and an increasing number of locations were being connected to the high speed fibre network.

The situation is both dynamic and fluid, and the best way to find out about a locality is to visit the HIE website, where the current availability is accessible.

Any person requiring the new high speed access will have to contact their service provider to arrange connection. Existing arrangements will not automatically be upgraded.

The HIE website is found at www.hie.co.uk/whereandwhen, and use the “check your details“ option box.

10. Correspondence

Nothing to report

11. A.O.C.B

Lewis Wind Power (LWP) monitoring mast

NATS had advised LWP that a move of the current mast from Plasterfield would no longer be necessary.

Braighe cemetery headstones.

Norman raised the issue of headstones within the cemetery. There are now several stones which have completely collapsed and are horizontal, and others lying at an angle, and liable to fall over.

The cemetery committee were trying to contact families (where known) regarding repairs. Where no family contact was possible they were looking at a block repair project to have stones reset correctly and safely, but funding such work could be problematic.

PCC will assist with further investigations, and look at the scale of the works and costs.

Eye Church coastal erosion

Discussion about the current situation at the Eye Church.

It was suggested that there could be a source of funding for civil engineering works through the EU.

Coupled with this aspect, the Braighe road closure was raised, and the possibility of an emergency roadway on the Broad Bay side of the cemetery.

Alisdair will raise both these issues with Ian Mackinnon, CNES Technical Services director and get his advice on both areas of concern.

Upper Bayble Development Trust (UBDT)

A letter had been received from the UBDT requested initial set-up funding. Members of UBDT who had a possible vested interest left the meeting before debate on the issue.

The letter was very self explanatory, and after discussion it was agreed that the PCC would support the request, and transfer the funding (£250) to UBDT from the Bayble & Garrabost development fund.

The meeting closed at 2040 hours.

12. Next Meeting

- Monday 21st March 2016

This meeting will take place in Café Roo, Buth an Rubha at Knock

Meeting closed at 8.40pm

Lewis Shand