

## CASTLEBAY & VATERSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in Castlebay School on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 6pm

**PRESENT:** Michael Galbraith Chair  
Iain G MacNeil Treasurer  
Marion MacNeil Committee

**APOLOGIES:** Eoin MacNeil Committee

**PUBLIC MEMBERS:** Bernard Anderson

Michael welcomed those in attendance and apologies received. As there is no Clerk at present, Marion agreed to take minutes. As there were no notes from the previous meeting, the agenda moved onto item 3.

**Action:** Michael to place an advert for a Clerk, in the Guth Bharraigh this week.

### 3. ISLAND'S BILL

No submission was sent in by the Community Council, however, Michael stressed it was vital that we are kept aware and involved in the process of the bill. Particularly as it may have significant impact on decision making for local issues.

### 4. TRANSPORT

Michael gave a brief update as to the current issues regarding Loganair and the twin otter planes. The Chief Executive of Loganair has resigned. There are 3 twin otters. These planes are currently in use for Barra, Tiree and Campbeltown. One of the main reasons why the service has suffered from delays/withdrawals, is due to the newer technology inbuilt within the new aircraft which requires staff training. This has been a struggle to achieve. However, service has improved more recently.

Bernard questioned if there was still a campaign to restore the Barra – Benbecula route and would it be more beneficial to do a direct service from Barra – Stornoway? Michael explained the issues regarding the timings and tide, impact it potentially would have on the 2 direct flights to Glasgow and the use of the twin otters in other places.

The Committee welcomed the approved Cal Mac summer timetable which reflects the needs of the community.

No further information regarding the tendering for the public bus service contract has been issued. Current contracts to end in April 2016.

**Action:** Michael to email Transport (Cnes) for an update on the public service bus contracts. He will also discuss with Eoin a suitable date for a Transportation Committee meeting.

## 5. TREASURER UPDATE

Iain confirmed that the Accounts for 2014/2015 had now been audited by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and a payment of £2,000 from Cnes had been deposited into the account. The current bank balance is now £9,918.00.

The Community Council receives £500 per year for administration and a further £1,000 for when the accounts are audited. Marion explained the Challenge Fund which has a maximum grant amount of £2,000 (requires to be match funded by 50%). To apply, it has to be agreed and signed by the Community Council with applications made between June-August.

## 6. AOCB

### **Project support/funding requests**

A letter was received from Barra Games Association requesting support for the proposed Games event to be held in July.

**Action:** *It was agreed that a donation of monies would be given, but an amount agreed at the next meeting.*

An email from Malcolm Burr requesting support from the Community Council for help with the erosion issues affecting the Annie Jane Monument. The Monument may require to be reinstated on a concrete plinth and lettering re-done.

**Action:** *Marion to discuss with Vatersay Community Association as these concerns have previously been raised by the Vatersay community. A potential Challenge Fund project?*

A letter received from Buth Bharraigh requesting a letter of support from the Community Council in their bid to remain within the old coop building with the aim to purchase the property. This building is to be demolished by the Comhairle later this year. Marion declared an interest as a Comhairle employee who is involved in this project.

A discussion was had regarding the background of how the Comhairle had approached the Community Council a few years ago regarding their view to remove the old coop building. The Community Council asked the community their views and no one expressed interest, therefore, wrote to confirm that the Comhairle should go ahead with the demolition. The demolition is part of a larger project – the construction of new Business Units and extension to Vatersay hall.

**Action:** *It was agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting with a full Committee attendance.*

## **Castlebay Pontoons**

Michael and Iain G had both, on separate occasions, met with Euan Scott, Development Officer with CBaB. (Barra & Vatersay Company Ltd) to discuss the pontoon project in Castlebay. The previous Community Council had submitted an objection letter to planning for the project proposals. Both had various discussions with Euan and aired their concerns regarding the proposed location.

**Action:** *It was agreed the Euan should be invited to a future CC meeting to give a presentation on the project.*

## **Castlebay Enhancement**

Bernard raised his concerns regarding the state of Castlebay with empty buildings, condition of buildings and lack of activity which was once the main hub of the island. Marion explained that CBaB are currently working on a project at the moment to run a charrette. (A **charrette** is an intensive planning session where the community, architect and others collaborate on a vision for development. It provides a forum for ideas and offers the unique advantage of giving immediate feedback to the designers). The focus is Castlebay and it will be open to the community to feedback their thoughts as to how they visualise the future of the area. It is hoped that once completed, there will be potential to apply for external funds to work on projects to enhance and re-develop the area.

Marion gave an update on the Vatersay extension project and Castlebay business units. Both projects are due to commence end of February 2016.

The Comhairle are hosting a 'Meet the Funder Roadshow' on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016, Castlebay Hall from 1pm-7pm.

Discussions on how to raise the profile of the Community Council and suggestions were to set up a facebook page and have an occasional update page in the Guth.

Michael thanked those that attended and proposed that the next meeting be held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016. Michael to confirm with the Committee.