

CASTLEBAY & VATERSAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in Castlebay School on 8th February 2016 at 6.30pm

PRESENT: Michael Galbraith Chair Christina MacNeil Vice Chair
Iain G MacNeil Treasurer Angus MacNeil Committee
Marion MacNeil Committee

APOLOGIES: Eoin MacNeil Committee

Michael welcomed those in attendance and apologies received. As there is no Clerk at present, Marion agreed to take minutes. Due to the off island work commitments of some members of the Committee and the urgency of a response to a request by Buth Bharraigh, the Committee have met at short notice to discuss this request to enable them to respond promptly.

Action: *The position of Clerk is currently being advertised in the Guth.*

Matters arising from the previous minutes (28/01/16)

Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Iain G MacNeil and seconded by Marion MacNeil.

1. TRANSPORT

Marion explained the current position on the public service bus contracts. The current operators have been issued with a contract extension until August 2016. The Comhairle propose to have the new tenders re-advertised by March/April. The new summer timetable will include that a bus meets the plane. Christina suggested that if there is a request service for booking the bus service, a reminder is located in the departure lounge at Glasgow airport. Michael queried the need for bus shelters.

Action: *Michael to email Transport (Cnes) to request a bus shelter for the airport and for an update on the tender process.*

2. TREASURER UPDATE

Christina is to arrange for the transfer of funds from the Barra & Vatersay Residents Association to the Community Council account. This organisation is no longer in existence. A copy of the agreement and termination will be given to the Community Council for their file.

Funding Requests

It was agreed that any funding issued by the Community Council would require to be signed for by the recipients.

Barra Games

A letter was received from Barra Games Association requesting support for the proposed Games event to be held in July. A decision had been delayed and forwarded for discussion at this meeting.

Action: *It was agreed that a donation of £500 be granted.*

3. VATERSAY

Concerns have been raised regarding the Annie Jane Monument in Vatersay and the works required to re-instate it. The Committee are happy to put this forward as a project for the Challenge Fund.

Action: *Iain G to contact Tina in Vatersay for further information and to obtain quotes for the works required. An interpretation board would be included.*

4. CASTLEBAY PONTOONS

A short discussion was had regarding the current status of the planned Mooring Pontoons for Castlebay and how the development may affect the local community and other users of the seas around Castlebay.

Action: *Iain G to contact Euan (CBaB) and ask if they will attend the next meeting for an update on the project.*

5. OLD CO-OP

Buth Bharraigh have requested a letter of support from the Community Council, in their bid to remain within the old coop building with the aim to purchasing 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. The previous Community Council had been approached by the Comhairle (around 2012) and as they received no public interest in the building, they had approved that it would be demolished.

The current Community Council's view was that the previous Community Council had already made this decision and the Comhairle had programmed this demolition based on this. The funding is in place, the works are due to start and the Committee felt that the Buth have been aware of this for some time now.

Matters arising were the dangerous corner, the lack of designated parking, land concerns, state of the building in such a prominent position. CBaB are in the process of a Charrette – which is to look at Castlebay and seek the views of the Community to look at re-enhancing and re-developing the area. The group felt this is an excellent opportunity to 'clean up' the area and hopefully get the empty traditional premises around Castlebay, back into use by businesses or residents. The old co-op is an eyesore and could be detrimental to this potential enhancement plan.

The discussion spoke about the new business units which are due to commence shortly in Horve. The Committee agreed that the Buth should be given consideration for a unit – if the demolition proceeds. They will actively request that the Comhairle agree to this in advance of any demolition.

Action: *By a clear majority, it was agreed by this current Community Council, that at this late stage, they would support the previous Community Council decision in the demolition of the old co-op. Michael to advise Sarah MacLean of the outcome and write to the Comhairle to advise if they continued with the demolition, to consider Buth Bharraigh for one of the new proposed units in Horve.*

AOCB

Discussions regarding raising the profile of the Community Council.

Action: Christina to look at setting up a facebook page. To discuss with Eoin regarding monthly/quarterly updates in the Guth. When advertising future meetings, to mention issues that will be discussed.

Michael thanked everyone for attending and advised the date of the next meeting will be confirmed by email.