

Minutes of the meeting held in Castlebay School on 27th June 2016 at 6.30pm

Present:

Michael Galbraith - Chair, Christina MacNeil - Vice Chair, Eoin MacNeil – Committee,
Cllr Donald Manford Ex-officio.

Apologies: Marion MacNeil Committee, Angus MacNeil Committee, Iain G MacNeil Treasurer.

Michael welcomed those in attendance and apologies were read. As there is no Clerk at present, Christina agreed to take minutes of this meeting.

Minutes of previous meeting of 9th May 2016 were proposed by Christina and seconded by Eoin

Transport:

Ferries – Winter Timetable:

The proposed summer 2017 ferry vessel and timetable was discussed. There was a brief discussion on the reliability of the *Isle of Lewis* during the forthcoming winter months. It was agreed that we should see how the vessel copes with the winter run before raising concerns to Calmac regarding this matter.

The current timetable has the vessel departing Castlebay at 8.00am and arriving in Oban at 12.30am. On many occasions the *Isle of Lewis* is waiting in Oban bay for a further 20/30 minutes to allow the *Isle of Mull* to depart the pier. It was suggested the *Isle of Lewis* could depart from Castlebay 30 minutes later which would prevent passengers waiting in the bay, this option may also suit hoteliers and B&B businesses. However the Committee present at the meeting agreed the timetable was fine for now, as the frequency and daily direct sailings are the best we've had to date.

Planes:

The Council (CNES) are currently considering increasing the Benbecula to Stornoway flights from a 3 day to 5 day service, however there has been no proposed review regarding the axed Barra to Benbecula service. It was suggested an Islander aircraft could service Barra to Benbecula, thus not increasing the burden/demands on the Twin Otter aircraft. There was also concern on why the people of Barra are not invited to take part in the Council's review.

There was discussion on the possibility of the Glasgow connection during the winter months maybe being reduced to one flight per day, however everyone present at the meeting agreed it was important to keep the two flights, as once it's removed/reduced it would be difficult or impossible to have it reinstated. It was agreed a letter of thanks and appreciation on how the community value the current excellent service/timetable, was to be sent to both Transport Scotland and the MSP for *Transport and the Islands*. **(Action Point)**

Airport facilities:

It was suggested that both Community councils meet to discuss any opportunities to improve the airport area and facilities. It would also be a good idea to invite representatives from HIAL to attend. A date for this meeting has yet to be decided. **(Action Point)**

Buses:

There has been no confirmed update regarding the forthcoming public bus tender contract. The only information at the time of the meeting is we are aware one contractor has applied for the bus tender. The Council are intending to utilise the participation of members of Barra & Vatersay on the tender process.

Old Co-op:

Demolition: Minutes from the previous Community council regarding the demolition of the old Co-op were read out. The present Community council took from those minutes that information presented to them that the previous Community councillors agreed to the demolition of the old Co-op. However the minutes from those particular meetings does not go into a lot of detail regarding this issue.

Members of the Buth were present at the meeting and handed out an extract from the Charrette Study report that referred to the Coop building and information on how they plan to enhance the external look of the building. Details of the survey undertaken was also given.

Members of the Community Council felt the building would need a lot of work to enhance its look. Sarah MacLean representing the Buth said they had money aside for an Architect but had yet to appoint one or have any drawings done. Sarah read extracts from a letter dated 12/09/2013 from Joe MacPhee regarding the regeneration project. In their mind, this regeneration project could be changed to exclude the demolition and include the enhancements to the current old Coop building. It's said that of the 18/06/2016 five businesses have expressed an interest for the new purpose built buildings in Horve.

The Community Council agreed that there had still been no material change presented to them that would make them change their current position as stated in their letter to the Comhairle.

It was mentioned the Council will consider approaching the Scottish Government to seek clarity on changing the original plan/proposals to remove the demolition of the building from this project package.

Mrs Sarah MacLean read out a letter/statement she had drafted and that she planned to release to the press. The letter highlighted the Community Council's lack of support for the retention of the building. The Community councillors were asked by Sarah MacLean if they were happy for the letter to be sent to the press and for their comments – all community councillors present declined to comment.

Fitness Suite:

It was agreed a letter of support would be sent regarding the fitness suite and its poor state of repair. Eoin will write a letter regarding this matter. **(Action Point)**

Rubbish around Horve:

Michael agreed to contact the council expressing the urgent need for more bins/skip for general waste in and around the Horve area. It was noted that placing the extra bins in the most needed areas may prove difficult for the bin lorry and men to access. **(Action Point)**

Treasurers Update:

Waiting on receipt of £500 from Barra Games Committee – it has been requested. **(Action Point)**

NHS/Council plan update:

A locality forum has been set up regarding the NHS/Council local plan – no update was available at the meeting. The Community Council plan to add this to their agenda at their next meeting.

Annie Jane Memorial:

Iain G MacNeil does not think the Annie Jane Memorial would come under the community challenge fund.

Iain G suggested lifting the monument and building a mount under it. However, someone would need to speak to planning and the Vatersay community to see if this would be acceptable. The reason this issue has been raised was from the concerns of an historian in his report to the council. **(Action Point)**

Roads:

Concerns were raised regarding parts of some roads in Barra and Vatersay that require improving. A couple of specific areas were pointed out where improvements and soak away areas need to be addressed. It was agreed that contacting Iain MacKinnon and Donald Manford would increase the chances of having the road problems addressed. It was suggested the CC write to Mr MacKinnon regarding clarity on raising the profile of areas concerned. **(Action Point)**

Next Meeting:

A date for the next meeting was not set as it was agreed to wait until there was a more convenient time for more members of the Committee to attend.

Date of Meeting	Action	Updates	Action Against	Status
Nov 2015	Position of Clerk	No responses to date	All	On going
8/02/16	Bus Shelter for Airport	Emailed, council agreed if HIAL would partly fund	Michael	On going
8/02/16	Annie Jane Monument	Checked funding criteria etc. Sought some quotes for work	Iain G	On going
8/02/16	Facebook Page or other	No update	Christina	On going
9/05/16	Castlebay Pontoons	Roddy & Euan gave presentation to committee on plans etc	Iain G	Closed
9/05/16	Write to council asking what discussions etc took place on the run up to their decision (funding)	Verbal communication with Local Councillor to try and obtain copy correspondence.	Eoin	On going
9/02/16	CC to retract letter to council regarding decision from previous CC	Previous minutes produced detailing previous CC's position	Michael	Closed
9/02/16	Request documentation regarding funding application to Scottish Government for full project	No update	DManford	On going
9/02/16	Castlebay Play Area Insurance – Clarify with Marion	No update	Marion	On going
9/02/16	Co-op Sponsor clean-up around football field and play park	No update	Christina	On going
27/06/16	Letter to Transport Scotland & MSP Transport & Islands		Michael	
27/06/16	Joint (C/bay & N/bay) CC meeting Airport Facilities		Michael	
27/06/16	Letter to Council regarding the poor state of the fitness suite	Email communication asking for clarification of works planned.	Eoin	
27/06/16	Contact Council to place more Bins around Football Field		Michael	
27/06/16	Receipt from Barra Games		Iain G	
27/06/16	Road Improvements – Clarity on requests		Michael	