

Minute of Meeting: Point Community Council

In: Point and Sandwick Power office, Old Knock Schoolhouse, Isle of Lewis.

On: Monday 3rd October 2016

At: 7.30 pm

PRESENT

Matt Bruce (Chair)
Cllr Zena Stewart
Agnes Munro
Chris Mackenzie

Norman MacLeod
Lewis Shand
Cllr Norman MacLeod
Malcolm Dalzel-Job (by Skype)

APOLOGIES

Cllr Alasdair MacLeod
Donald MacRitchie (Vice-Chair)
Edmund McGregor (Treasurer)
PC Alanna Goddard

Norman Macdonald
Alec John Murray
Angus Lamont

ATTENDING

Minutes of previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of Monday 22nd August were approved.
Thanks are due to Donald MacRitchie for taking these minutes.
Minutes: Proposed by Matt; Seconded by Zena

Police Scotland issues

There were no police personnel able to attend the meeting. Alanna was currently on leave and had sent her apologies.

Parking on the Point main road.

It was noted that two points on the main road were at risk from resident parking; one on the approach to a hill creating a blind summit, and the other on a hill at a bend, again creating a situation where traffic had to pass on the opposite carriageway on a downslope bend.

Matt would email Gordon Macleod on the issue to get a police perspective.

Matters arising from the minutes

Bus shelters

As Angus was unable to be present, there was nothing to report and the item would be updated at the next meeting

Eilean na Mairbh

Alex John was not available and this item would be discussed at the next meeting

Roads

Road markings had not been done on the section of road between Ionad Stoodie and Garrabost post office following top dressing. An external contractor was involved and Matt would email Donald Macrae about this. The section was considered high risk especially the dip around the Garrabost mill bend over the burn.

Discussion regarding gritting and priority works in winter. CNES had a limited resource with a large area to cover. Point was not top priority since it was reckoned to be a lower risk due to its peninsula topography and the influence of close proximity to the sea. It was a fact the despite this we still had an ice skid risk when the temperature went sub-zero. It was recognised that resources for gritting were finite, and heavy usage roads would get priority, but the issue would be kept active to gauge whether we issue should be raised once winter weather was upon us.

The recent top dressing work in Point was complete for this year but it was noted that the hill in Lower Bayble had not been done. Malcolm had spoken with the contractor at the time and he had said it would be done, but this had not happened. There were issues with the work machinery plant due to the steep gradient. The CNES transportation sub committee had it as an active item, and action was planned at a later date. Zena would keep it on her action list. Malcolm would also take the point forward and raise it with the relevant CNES team. The hill was considered a safety issue in bad weather especially icy conditions, although it was pointed out that drivers should drive appropriate for the road conditions.

CNES finances.

See councillor reports

SSE resilience plans.

We will invite an emergency planner or other relevant person to the next meeting to take this action forward. Matt to arrange invitation.

Cemetery headstones.

There was an information session taking place on Friday 7th October regarding volunteer action. It was suggested that Landfill community tax benefit could be accessed for this project.

Co-option of additional PCC members

Nothing to report. Malcolm would speak with a possible recruit and advise response
It was particularly noted the lack of representation from the Tumpain end of Point.

Treasurers report

Eddie was unable to attend but had advised that there was nothing to report.

Councillors report

The CNES budget had not yet been set from the Scottish government, and it would be 23rd November before the big picture was known. Thereafter the amounts to councils would be made known to COSLA in early 2017

There was a degree of pessimism about the CNES allocation.

Broadbay locality planning group; Health and social partnership

Agnes reported little action so far in our locality.

Work had started in other areas which were considerably smaller in scale to Broadbay. It was likely that our area which was by far the largest would be towards the end of the consultation.

Members raised our concerns that the scale of the project, and the implications for all concerned were considerable

Community Challenge Fund

Nothing to report

Future plans and actions for PCC

There was discussion on areas of activity that the PCC could instigate on behalf of our community.

One of the areas for discussion was the emergency relief road on the north side of the Braighe. There were several linked aspects to this including acceptance of such a scheme by the relevant communities and grazing committees, the Eye Church situation regarding site proximity and the coastal erosion threat, the utility aspects for power and water, amongst others, and of course...cost.

This item will be discussed at future meetings.

Members were also invited to submit any other ideas.

Planning applications

Nothing of note at present. Chris raised to issue to some applications coming in two weeks at a time, leaving little time to challenge any plans if so needed. It was expected to should this situation arise, an earliest intervention would be accepted by the planning team.

Training issues

Nothing to report. The fact that no further offers of training had been received was viewed with disappointment by those present, since we had been advised that this aspect would be ongoing throughout the current community council period of office.

Publicity and tasks for the PCC

Matt raised the 1999 Point Community Project Plan, and questioned if we should revisit and update the data. Also, we could have a look at the various suggestions at the time and see what has been done, and aspects which we could introduce in the light of more recent developments.

Matter to be discussed at a later date when a full PCC were present.

Utilities

Broadband service.

This project is being managed by HIE and the local contact is Donnie Morrison. Matt will contact him to see if we can get updates on progress on a regular basis, preferably every 2 months

SSE community resilience plan

Covered in "Matters arising"

Scottish Water

There had been an obnoxious smell from the sewerage outfall at Melbost/ Braighe near the airport road end. Scottish water had investigated and there was an engineering failure which had been sorted in a first fix. Further action was planned to ascertain the integrity of the outfall pipe.

A similar issue was evident at Seaview and Aignish, and this would be raised for similar investigation.

Correspondence

Nothing to report

A.O.C.B

Infestation of Gunnera.

It was increasingly evident that this plant was becoming rampant within the Point area and some action to control it was necessary. The area from Shulishader to Tumpain was particularly bad. Malcolm pointed out the success that the North Harris trust had in this respect.

He would discuss how they had tackled the problem with Gordon Cumming who had been closely involved.

PCC communication with Point residents

Malcolm had some experience of ways of encouraging partnership communication. He would look at the various options open to us to promote greater feedback and involvement. Chris to add Malcom to our Facebook admin team.

As part of this aspect, we would seek suggestions on the PCC 10 year plan from residents.

Coastal path project.

Malcolm was keen to get involved with this as there was little evidence of progression (due mainly to recent weather). Matt and Malcolm would discuss the issue.

Scrap cars within the area.

Concern was raised about the increasing numbers of scrap cars and untidiness of the Point area.

A scrap car facility was starting at Shulishader (Sheshader Road) in old quarry.

Issue getting worse, and to be discussed at next meeting.

Defibrulators. (De/fibs)

Discussion on where best to locate any De/fibs to ensure maximum access in emergencies.
Offer of one from the Coastguard accepted.
Question on what was held by the Point first responders. Lewis to investigate.

Update.

I have spoken with Jane MacPhee, Bayble, who is one of the First Responders. They have two de/fibs, both which are the property of the Scottish Ambulance Service. One is held in Bayble, the other in Aird, and accompany the on-call team members. She also advised me of the current status of the team. 5 members on call. Because of numbers, there is currently a single member response. Callouts initiated by ambulance control via mobile phone. Callouts are only on 999/112 calls. Coverage between 7pm and 7am weekdays, and 7pm Friday to 7am Monday.

They have a number of volunteers waiting in the wings for training, and this is done by the Scottish Ambulance Service. The training regime is being revised and there will be new operational practices adopted. Alisdair Macdonald (Dodds), the Chiarman of the team is meeting with the Ambulance Service on 15th November to discuss future actions. The first responders would be happy to send a representative to speak with the PCC.

Next Meetings

- Monday 21st November 2016 (Point Power office, Buth an Rubha)
- Monday 12th December 2016 (TBC)
Possible business/ social event with invitations to other Point activity providers

These meetings will take place at 7.30 pm

Meeting closed at 9.00pm**Lewis Shand**