

Minute of Meeting: Point Community Council

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

On: Monday 21st November 2016

At: 7.30 pm

PRESENT

Matt Bruce (Chair)
Agnes Munro
Chris Mackenzie
Edmund McGregor (Treasurer)
Angus Lamont

Norman MacLeod
Lewis Shand
Cllr Norman MacLeod
Malcolm Dalzel-Job

APOLOGIES

Cllr Alasdair MacLeod
Cllr Zena Stewart
Donald MacRitchie (Vice-Chair)

Norman Macdonald
Alec John Murray
PC Alanna Goddard (Sick leave)

ATTENDING

Jane MacPhee (Point First Responders)
Shona Campbell (Point First Responders)

Minutes of previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of Monday 3rd October were approved.

Police Scotland issues

There were no police personnel able to attend the meeting. Alanna was currently on sick leave and no other officers were available.

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 had sent an email to Alanna but had not had a reply at this time.
Item continued.

Matters arising from the minutes

Bus shelters

Angus had nothing to report at this time, 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 (see separate item in minutes)

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.

Alisdair Macleod unable to be at meeting.
Item to be discussed at next meeting.

Point First Responders.

Jane and Shona had come along to update us on the current state of this team and issues with equipment. There had been an offer of an emergency defibrillator made to the PCC, and this had prompted an investigation of what was the state of de/fib provision in our area, and where could any equipment be placed for public use if needed.

Jane advised us that the first responders 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.

Chris advised us that there would shortly be one held in the school, and that the container already in place.

There was uncertainty about the source of the additional unit, and Matt would seek to clarify this.

It was believed that the "Lucky to be here" charity were providing kits, and Malcolm will get in touch with Cllr. Angus Morrison, Stornoway, who is the local organiser, to see what could be on offer.

Locations for "public access de/fibs" were discussed and included, Ionad Stoodie, Buth Roo, Tumpain Community Centre, Church premises. The use of old (soon to be recovered), BT phone boxes was also a possibility.

This item will be updated at future meetings.

Jane and Shona also advised us 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 Chairman of the team, met with the Ambulance Service on 15th November to discuss future actions. The Stornoway station will commence a revised training programme once their professionals have been updated. The new training will cover current members and thereafter new recruits

Road issues

There were several issues of concern as regards the road system within our locality. Malcolm had met with Calum MacKenzie of CNES (Technical Services Manager) regarding several points which had been raised at our last meeting. He would be having a further meeting week commencing 28th November.

There was a wide ranging discussion on the roadway system within Point. As a result Matt would invite Calum Mackenzie to our next meeting.

Items which we would intend to raise with him include the following.

- a) The Bayble hill, top dressing issue
- b) White lines
- c) Blind summits and signage
- d) Gritting, and school bus services
- e) Potholes and road splitting.
- f) Verge drainage and gullies

Co-option of additional PCC members

There was discussion on this item, but no further recruits had come forward.

It was suggested that individual PCC members speak with potential new members directly as the "broad-brush" tactics via the Rhudach had been unsuccessful.

Treasurers report

Eddie advised that there were no major changes to report.

Our bank balance was healthy with monies held in various accounts.

We were expecting money promised from Point and Sandwick Trust soon.

Councillors report

The CNES budget had not yet been set from the Scottish government, and it would be early December with the Finance Secretary's statement 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 had no further information to report at this time.

Community Challenge Fund

Nothing to report

Future plans and actions for PCC

There was discussion regarding any initiatives which the PCC could instigate that would improve the community overall. It was accepted that there were numerous individual groups working towards this aim in their own areas of interest and expertise. However, it was agreed that the “bigger picture” which was not directly of interest to these groups was being overlooked. Also, the Council, which might have done work in these areas, was facing serious financial restrictions, and many jobs that had previously been done were now lapsed.

The basic untidiness of common areas was a case in point, and the increase in fly-tipping was on the increase.

Members were invited to think on aspects which could be undertaken by us on such matters and bring them forward at the December meeting.

There could also be close coordination with Point and Sandwick Trust who now had appointed two community Development officers.

Planning applications

One PA had been requested for the old Sheshader quarry site (on Shulishader common grazing). The application was to convert the builder’s yard and shed, into a waste metal and car dismantling facility.

Concern was mentioned about the application. We did not want to inhibit a well-managed enterprise, which could benefit our community, but had some concern about the environmental aspects of the proposal, especially regarding effluent and pollution control. Matt will speak with the CNES team and ascertain that SEPA would have some examination of the application on environmental controls. He would also verify that some landscaping of the site was included to provide suitable screening of what would be an industrial site.

Training issues

Malcolm had attended the Tarbert, Harris conference regarding island depopulation. He was impressed with those attending and that they covered a wide range of interests and include our MP, MSP, Councillors, HIE, local groups, etc.

Issues raised include an overall estimate of future population demographics, and aspects effecting depopulation. Aspects raised included jobs, housing, transport, costs of travel, mainland appeal, and others.

He would circulate the minutes of the conference when they were issued.

Publicity and tasks for the PCC

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

Utilities

Broadband service.

Donnie Morrison had updated Matt on the current roll out figures for Point in regard to street cabinets and plant infrastructure.

Norman raised the vexing issue of availability to homes where adjacent properties could not access high speed broadband. He had experience of this personally.

Lewis to contact HIE/ BT to find out why this was happening and report back.

SSE community resilience plan

Covered in “Matters arising”

Scottish Water

The sewerage smell had been located into the outfall pipe and had been repaired.

Correspondence

Nothing to report

A.O.C.B

Infestation of Gunnera.

Malcolm had been in contact with Gordon Cumming , the Land Manager for the North Harris Trust, and he would visit Point this Wednesday (23rd Nov) to access the scale of the issue, and advise us on actions which had been done in Harris.

Malcolm invited any PCC members who wished to participate on Wednesday to come to Buth Roo cafe for 2pm.

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 had added 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.

The Point Coastal Path Trust had been formed to take this project forward.

Stores previously purchased by PCC (250 fence post markers) and held by Tom Clark, would be transferred to this trust.

Malcolm had heard a BBC Radio 4 programme on UK coastal paths recently, and had subsequently contacted Claire Balding, the programme presenter to see if she would come up to Point for a future programme.

She has put us down as a “definite possible” target for 2017/18.

Next Meetings

- Monday 12th December 2016 (Ionad Stoodie, subject to availability)
- *Possible business/ social event with invitations to other Point activity providers*
- Monday 30th January 2017 (Point and Sandwick Trust office)

These meetings will take place at 7.30 pm

Meeting closed at 9.40pm

Lewis Shand