

Benbecula Community Council

Minute of Meeting Held on Thursday 9th June 2016

Tagsa Uibhist Office, East Camp, Balivanich, at 7.00pm

1. Welcome and Present:

Councilors: Gail Robertson (Chair), Irene MacKay (Secretary), Murdina Naylor (Vice Chair & Treasurer), Hugh MacCormack, Roddy MacKay, C'Ilor Uisdean Robertson, PC Elizabeth MacKay

2. Apologies:

C'Ilor Neil Beaton, C'Ilor Andrew Walker

3. Minutes of Meeting held on 12th May 2016

Minutes of meeting to be taken forward for review at next meeting (7th July 2016)

4. Matters Arising:

Griminish War Memorial – awaiting further information from Catriona Garbutt

No further correspondence received from Donnie Johnson. Request that he attend the next BCC meeting will be communicated.

MOT requirements – Secretary to chase for further information as previous correspondence not replied to.

5. Treasurer's Report:

CC Naylor advised that the bank balance has increased by 10p since last month; balance now stands at £8,352.54.

CC Naylor contacted HHP regarding the bill received for the garage at Tindill on 16/05/16 to advise of the intention to terminate the lease agreement. A further statement for the value has been received and this is being followed up.

6. Correspondence:

i) BCC community engagement

The ongoing issue with the BCC email is proving difficult to resolve. The secretary proposed that a new email address be created and updated with the relevant bodies i.e. CnES pages, Facebook and any other relevant information site.

- **This proposal was agreed by all in attendance and will be actioned by the secretary**

ii) Funding: Uist Riding School

A letter was received via C'Illoir Walker from the above requesting a donation of ward funding towards the cost of new riding hats for the school. Further clarity is required on the actual funds required to assist with this purchase, and a funding application is to be completed and returned to BCC for consideration

- **CC Naylor to respond to the request outlining the above requirements**

iii) Alcohol & Drugs

An email was received via C'Illoir Walker from Ann MacInnes, ADP Development Officer for CnES requesting assistance to promote the Summer & Winter Campaigns intended to reduce harm caused by the use of alcohol & drugs.

- **BCC are happy to support the promotion of these campaigns through social media.**

7. Ward Funding:

i) Nunton Steadings Gala Day

A funding application has been received from Nunton steadings Gala Day Committee to assist with the initial start-up costs of this (intended) annual event. (Application form held on file)

Councilors approved the request for £250 and this will be communicated to the group.

8. Comhairle Members' Report

C'Illoir Robertson provided a summary update following the Council meetings of this week:

Various consultations are forthcoming and BCC should assist with the promotion of these to ensure that the voice of the community is heard. The following consultations are upcoming/underway:

- Air Services: Consultation Period underway: June –August
- Gritting Services: Consultation period due to launch in the autumn
- Deer Management: Consultation begins 4th July.

C’Ilor Robertson confirmed that the ferry services contract was discussed at length and the CnES councilors are awaiting further information from the service provider.

A meeting with the Crofter’s Commission is due to take place on Monday 13th June.

Funding for the slaughterhouses in Barra & Lochmaddy has been confirmed for Winter 2016

CnES have accepted Donnie Johnson’s request for retirement; it is expected that Mr Johnson will leave in September. Matters going forward should be raised with Angus MacDonald.

C’Ilor Robertson & CC Naylor attended a meeting last week in Liniclate School, in respect of the public bus services. One service provided (DA Travel) suggested that many of the issues raised had been rectified, however other issues mentioned raised concern, including the suggestion that service users have been made to sit in the aisles of the buses when the seating capacity has been reached.

- **C’Ilor Robertson is to investigate this issue further**

The letter handed to BCC from Jim Ferguson in relation to the bus service has been forwarded on to the provider (Grenitote Travel)

In order for issues to be taken forward, BCC needs to confirm how many times concerns have been raised before acting on behalf of the community. Requests for councilors to take forward items should be put in writing to ensure a robust audit trail is in place in the event of further detail being requested.

9. Police Report

PC Elizabeth Mackay provided an update to BCC

- Approx. 40 incidents since last meeting
- A new female police officer will take up post in Lochboisdale next Tuesday
- Extra police have arrived from the mainland for additional cover over the weekend for the St Kilda Challenge in Lochmaddy
- Issues with street lighting are ongoing; reports of incidents should be encouraged (including ‘near misses’) to add weight to the argument. Police will investigate whether they are able to report on any issues to assist with support.
- CC MacKay confirmed that CNES have agreed to increased times for street lighting for the weekend of the upcoming EDF Festival in Liniclate

10. Activities & Funding

Item added to Agenda in error – no discussion

11. AOCB

Pressure on individual CCs to attend consultations and meetings is causing burden and the need to share responsibilities is apparent. Councilors agreed that there is a need to recruit additional members to BCC, especially from areas out-with Balivanich.

- **Each Councilor is to consider possible members that could be approached to join the Community Council**

C’Illoir Naylor raised a concern about a service bus parking at blind spots on the road in Balivanich, as there are other possible areas that could be utilised without causing a road hazard

- **Police to look into this concern and contact provider if required.**

12. Date of Next Meeting

Meeting to be held at Tagsa Office, East Camp – **Thursday 7th July 2016, 7pm**