

Benbecula Community Council

Minute of Meeting Held on 10th November 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

Present: Sheena Stewart, C'Ilor Andrew Walker

2. Apologies:

C'Ilor Uisdean Robertson, CC Roddy MacKay, Police Scotland

3. Minutes of Meeting held on 12th May 2016 & 9th June 2016

Approval of Minutes from 17th October was proposed by CC Robertson & seconded by CC MacCormick

4. Matters Arising:

- Streetlights – Letter to be issued to the Inspector to request streetlights remain on in key areas over the festive period.

Secretary to issue letter to Police Scotland

- Community Workshop – Another party interested in workshop. C'Ilors updated on CnES position. A business plan is required from the CC before transfer of ownership could take place. Further consideration required as to whether BCC wish to progress on this matter
- BEB/SYY flight: Friday flights begun at the end of October. Continued support required for flight to remain in the future. WIHB contribution would be beneficial. Issues to be raised with Alasdair Allan next week.

- Locality Planning Group – C’llor Naylor invited as a participant on Options Appraisal, but this does not appear to be a public consultation. Attendance to be encouraged via Social Media.
- Torlum School – awaiting further update from CnES (Tech Services expected to be initiating works soon). CnES staff members / Community Members need to raise access issues in relation to H&S direct with CnES as an employer / owner of property.

C’llor Walker will raise questions regarding access for CnES employed staff.

- An application has been received from Tagsa Uibhist for a Christmas Party/Burns Supper Event. £500 was requested from ward funds toward this event

Approval was given from BCC for these funds to be granted to Tagsa Uibhist

- CPP
 - Focus on counteracting depopulation.
 - Branding/Marketing were common issues.
 - Young people raised issues of isolation; preference to be near other young people / transport raised as an issue in this respect
 - Lack of social housing
 - Lack of employment/training opportunities

Actions from CPP to be emailed to members next week

5. Correspondence

Email received from Graeme Baxter, Research Fellow, RGU, who are undertaking a study into the cultural & social importance of remote airports. The project is named SPARA 2020 (Small Peripheral & Remote Airports) and is funded by ERDF. Dr Baxter is seeking an interview with a member BCC to participate in the research.

CC Roberston confirmed that she would be willing to be interviewed by Dr Baxter. Irene to make introductions

6. Treasurer Report

Bank balance remains the same as last month; cheques have been issued in relation to clerk fees. Further information awaited from HHP in relation to possible outstanding charge for the Tindill Place garage.

7. Comhairle Members’ Report

- Next meetings are due to be held in December

- Malcolm Burr meeting with CCs regarding Community Empowerment bill, however this is unlikely to happen before the New Year. Part B of Community Empowerment Act released last week
- Derek McKay (leading / advising on constitutional docs) is expected to contact BCC following Members consultation
- Further training to be provided to CCs to provide clarity on roles & responsibilities
- BCC informed that £60k from the crash of the oilrig off-coast in Lewis is to be spread across the Western Isles. Consideration to be given to possible projects that could utilise funding,

8. Police Report

Police issued their apologies for this meeting. A further update will take place at the next meeting

9. AOCB

- Balivanich School Trip: Suggestion made to assist Balivanich Schoolchildren with a likely shortfall of funds for the P7 trip to Dalguise, noting ward funding requires to be allocated by Jan 2017.
Form to be issued to Balivanich School to request funds.
- Streetlights: Request lights to remain on in key areas across Benbecula between 16th December & 16th January
Secretary to issue letter to CnES, Tech Services to make request
- Sheena Stewart presented statistics to the group which outlined that North Uist & Benbecula show very poor outcomes in relation to child poverty, positive destinations and depopulation when compared with the rest of Scotland. OHCPP recommend that concentrated locality plans are required to support the poorest areas.
Issues to be raised with Alasdair Allan next week.
- Secretary advised members the possibility of resignation in the near future, due to work commitment & lack of time to commit to role. Will continue in the role for the time being.

10. Date & Venue of next meeting

7pm, 08 Dec 2016, at Tagsa Office, Balivanich.