

NORTH TOLSTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Note of meeting of the **North Tolsta Community Council** held at the Offices of the North Tolsta Historical Society, North Tolsta, on **Wednesday, 9th November 2016, at 7.15pm.**

PRESENT: Councillor Donald Crichton (DC) (from 7.35pm); Anna Mackenzie (AMk); Councillor John A MacIver (Cllr JM); John MacIver (JM); Fiona MacLeod (FM); Stuart Thomson (ST).

APOLOGIES: Erica MacLeod (EM); Effie MacMillan (EM); Angus Murray (AM), Cllr Catriona Stewart (Cllr CS).

CHAIR: Anna MacKenzie

1. Note of the Last Meeting

The Note of meeting held on 12 October 2016 was approved.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that were not already included on the agenda.

2. Memorial Service

It was confirmed that whilst the Reverend Campbell, Minister of the Free Church, North Tolsta would have no objections to a change in the memorial service to a Sunday (as in most other communities) a view had been expressed that this might not be welcomed by some members of the wider community. The 2016 memorial service would take place at 12 noon on Saturday, 12th November. It was noted that Andrew Harris and Alice Macintosh, Tolsta Primary School would lay the wreath on behalf of the community and that up to three army cadets would be in attendance.

Decision: It was agreed that (a) the welcome and vote of thanks and invite to attend a soup and sandwich lunch would be undertaken by the Chair; (b) John MacDonald would be invited to conduct the prayer in Gaelic; (c) the Reverend Campbell would be invited to conduct the prayer in English; (d) Cllr DC or John Murdo MacDonald would be invited to present the Gaelic psalm; (e) members of the Community Council who were free would assemble at the hall at 9.00am to set-up and prepare food on the basis that the Chair would arrange the necessary provisions; (e) future services would take place at 2.00pm to enable more members of the community to attend, and (f) a standing annual booking would be made for future services.

3. Appointment of Treasurer

No appointment was made.

4. Banking/Bank Mandate

The bank balance as at 9 November 2016 was £12,408. A payment of £2,000 from Tolsta Community Development Limited (TCDL) to meet the shortfall in the costs of the Community Hall re-furbishment had yet to clear. A payment of £4,000 had been received from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (i.e. ward initiative funding) for hall re-furbishment.

Decision: It was noted that (a) approximately £8,000 would be paid out in the coming weeks as a consequence of fees relating to the recent Community Centre re-furbishment, (b) an account had been opened with MacGregor Industrial Supplies Limited, and (c) arrangements should be made to have the centre's Rhone pipes cleared.

5. Community Hall /Kitchen

The re-furbishment works to the Community Council Hall had been successfully carried out.

Decision: The Community Councillors expressed their appreciation to the respective ward Councillors for the award made from the ward initiative fund and to TCDL for their award towards the funding shortfall.

6. TCDL

New Build Steering Group: TCDL had proposed funding a project (in conjunction with the Big Lottery) to build a village facility to hold meetings, to replace the village shop and the post office facility and provide for a small café. The proposed new build would also accommodate the Historical Society which currently had no archive or display facilities. A small laundry and shower facility was proposed for use by community members and visitors to the area. The proposed building would be two storeys high and the front would be level with the main road. A Steering Group which included members from the various village Committees (e.g. Historical Society, Youth Groups, TCDL, Community Council, Buth Tholstaidh, and input from the Golden Oldies) had been established to develop the proposal. A new Group would be established to progress any new build. AMk represented the Historical Society and FM represented the Community Council on the Group.

A meeting of TCDL-New Build Steering Group had taken place on 24th October 2017 to hear the concerns of residents (who had no objection to a facility in principle) living in close proximity to the proposed new build site. Since no satisfactory conclusions had been reached between the affected residents and the Steering Group in relation to the siting of the proposed build, it was anticipated that a further village consultation meeting would take place where the Group could outline the proposals and residents could put their views forward. It would then be for the village to decide whether the project should go ahead or not. The affected residents had undertaken to put their concerns in writing to the Steering Group.

Decision: It was noted that the next meeting of the New Build Steering Group would take place on 30 November 2016.

TCDL – AGM – 8th November 2016: Arising from discussion on this item, it was confirmed that at the AGM of TCDL held on 8th November 2016, it had been agreed that TCDL would meet with the local Parent Council to discuss the implications of falling school rolls on both on the viability of the school and on the community in general.

7. Community Jobs

This would be a standing item until such time as the Community Council had funds to action the following projects:-

Painting: Chain anchor posts at the entrance to the village - Picnic tables at the Cladach and at Tràigh Mhòr - Bridge at Gary and tables.

Gardening: Beds at the entrance to the village - Bed at the car park - Pots around the village - Beds at the Community Hall -Garden at the War Memorial.

Decision: It was noted (a) that John Angus had completed commendable works on the war memorial garden and that he would invoice the Community Council in due course; (b) AM had yet to place an advert in Tolsta Post Office requesting expressions of interest and quotations for some or all of the various works; and (c) Cllr. JM would make a further request for submission of an invoice for the toilet cleaning.

8. War Memorial

The War Memorials Trust managed a fund on behalf of Historic Environment Scotland and the Scottish Government to allow communities throughout Scotland to apply for financial help to conserve and repair their war memorials. An application to the Centenary Memorials Restoration fund had been submitted by JM and it was confirmed that NTCC had been awarded a grant of £2,930.00 which was 75% of the costs associated with the cost of repairing the bronze panel with inscriptions etc.

Decision: It was noted that (a) the proposed works would take place in spring 2017, and (b) that consideration should be given to placing a wire frame on the site to accommodate wreaths. JM confirmed that he could possibly obtain a photograph of a cage at a memorial on the Uists which some Members had seen and had suggested might be appropriate.

9. AOCB

(a) Back/Tong/Tolsta Community Councils – Joint Meetings

There would be a meeting of the Tong CC in Tong Hall on 15 November 2016 to which Back and Tolsta CCs had been invited. Dr Ron Culley, Chief Officer, IJB would speak on the integration of Health & Social Care Services and the implications of an aging population.

Decision: It was noted that FM and Cllrs Crichton and Maciver would attend.

(b) Pairc Trust

Pairc Trust had developed a Strategic Business Plan 2016 – March 2020. More recently, it had conducted a Housing Needs Analysis. The Trust currently employed an Administrative Officer and a Development Manager on a full time basis and another officer on a part-time basis. The Trust had a Community Asset Management arrangement with HIE and were working jointly on a range of projects including sustainable energy, wrap around care etc. The Trust was working to leverage additional funding for these initiatives.

Arising from discussion, it was confirmed that Galson Trust, working collaboratively with other local Groups and the community, also had a Strategic Plan 2017-30. The Communities' top priority was elderly care and the provision of permanent accommodation, respite care and support services in the area; and the Trust was working with the West-Side Health & Social Care Locality Planning Group to achieve their objectives. The Stornoway and Broadbay Locality Planning Group had invited

TCDL and other Trusts onto the H&SC LPG in addition to the community council representatives.

Tolsta had its own challenges such as a declining school roll and relatively poor connectivity. As regards poor connectivity, there were issues with split lines in the village and although BT Broadband was good for those who could access it, performance remained variable.

Decision: It was agreed that there were benefits to Groups working collaboratively to realise an area's full potential and perhaps replicate the successes experienced in other areas. It was noted that (a) E.E were trying to implement 4G, and (b) Jane Ellis, Development Manager, Paicr would be sending information to AMk on the work being undertaken by the Paicr Trust.

(c) Seachas

Decision: It was agreed that AM would be asked to prepare an article for the next edition of Seachas providing an update on the work of the Community Council. A comment was made on the need for the wider community to know that they were welcome to attend meetings and where they might access minutes of meetings.

(d) Population Seminar

FM had attended a 'Population Seminar' facilitated by the Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership in Harris on 7/8 November 2016. Actions had been proposed around the 'Our Islands Your Future' agenda, an area marketing and promotion campaign to attract and retain a working age population; the development of a 'saleable' brand identity and a set of key messages to attract 200 people of working age including migrant workers to the Islands. There was also discussion of the importance of the forthcoming Islands Deal with Scottish and UK Governments etc.

Decision: It was noted that the OHCCP would review the recommended actions and seek agreement on a final list of actions prior to community engagement early in 2017.

(e) Community Dinner

Decision: It was agreed that a meeting of the CC would need to take place early in 2017 to discuss and agree arrangements for the annual, older people's event.

(f) Stornoway Castle – Remembrance Event

A remembrance event would take place in the Castle on 11th November between 5.00pm and 7.00pm. There would be a presentational element facilitated by the North Tolsta/North Uist Historical Societies and Nick Smith would speak about the next phase of proposals to mark the centenary of the Iolaire disaster. All were welcome.

10. Date of next meeting - No date was fixed for the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm