

Minute of Meeting: Point Community Council

In: Ionad Stoodie, Knock, Isle of Lewis.

On: Monday 12th December 2016

At: 7.30 pm

PRESENT

Matt Bruce (Chair)
Donald MacRitchie (Vice-Chair)
Edmund McGregor (Treasurer)
Cllr Alasdair MacLeod
Cllr Zena Stewart

Norman MacLeod
Lewis Shand
Malcolm Dalzel-Job

APOLOGIES

Agnes Munro
Chris Mackenzie
Angus Lamont

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

ATTENDING

Minutes of previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of Monday 21st 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. Lewis to contact Police office about future meetings, and see if an officer would be available

Matters arising from the minutes

Bus shelters

Angus was unable to attend this evening. Item continued

Eilean na Mairbh

Alex John was not available to attend this evening 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.

Braighe closure

There was discussion about the recent closure. The decision on closure was with the emergency services. Matt to contact Andy Macdonald, about the situation with Point residents needing access across the causeway.

Cemetery headstones.

Nothing to report

Defibrillators.

There was discussion about these machines. The First Responders equipment was the property of the Scottish Ambulance Service and would be held by the responders.

The money raised by the family of Tormod Tomsh (£750) would not buy a machine which was estimated would cost £1500.

The Point councillors would donate £100 each from their ward allocation and the PCC would also donate.

There was no agreement on the location at this meeting.

There would be a D/fib at the school shortly.

Zena would speak with Angus Morrison of the “Lucky to be here” charity soon.

Item ongoing.

Road issues

Malcolm had raised various issues with CNES but as yet there had been no response.

The items raised were gritting and roadside line markings.

He had been given a response to the Bayble hill situation.

The contractor had been unable to carry out the work due to the temperature being over 25 degrees on the day and problems with equipment.

However the current situation was that the hill would be considered a priority once work recommenced.

At this time the grit bins were fully charged and arrangements were in place locally to apply salt/ grit if required by local residents.

There was a question to see if CNES would provide a “Steep Hill” sign, and Malcolm will take this up with them.

Co-option of additional PCC members

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

Nothing to report at present

Treasurers report

Eddie had a bill from CNES for the Remembrance wreath for the War Memorial.

The wreath had been surplus on the day and had been returned to CNES.

Eddie to check the situation with Tom Clark and CNES

The money promised from Point and Sandwick Trust (PST) would require an application to PST which Eddie and Matt would arrange.

Councillors report

There would be a CNES council meeting on 13th December when some news of the allocation for 2017/18 would possibly be made known.

Broadbay locality planning group; Health and social partnership

Agnes was unable to be present this evening.

Item continued.

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.

Item ongoing.

Planning applications

Matt had discussed the application relating to the Sheshader quarry site with the CNES planning team.

He had been assured that our concerns as regards this application were part of the process and the applicant would be required to satisfy all SEPA and environmental rules.

Training issues

Nothing to report on any further courses,
Zena to discuss this matter with Derek Mackay

Publicity and tasks for the PCC

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.

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

No further issues at present

Correspondence

We had a letter from the Parent/ Toddler group based in the Garrabost Free Church Hall. They requested financial help to purchase equipment for the group to provide playgroup toys and games for the children.

It was agreed to offer £200, which would come from the social fund.

A.O.C.B

Infestation of Gunnera.

Malcolm, Lewis and Norman had met with Gordon Cumming of the North Harris Trust on 23rd November. Gordon had explained how the North Harris trust team had tackled their area. He had shown us the methods used and success rate measurements.

He was of the opinion (gained from practical experience) that there was no quick fix, and that the eradication process would require physical effort and coordination.

On a site visit to see the scale of infestation at Shulishader, it was suggested that we start in the spring of 2017 using a controlled site to gauge the effectiveness of the 3 different methods used in Harris.

Malcolm will coordinate our project, and produce a plan.

We would liaise closely with Gordon in North Harris throughout the project planning stage, as he had offered help and advice.

It was pointed out that the work will require funding which could be considerable, linkages with local grazings' committees and SEPA, and possibly training of chemical application operatives.

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.

The Coastal Path trust would be taking the project forward on the basis of a 10 year programme. As a result of these moves, this item is closed from the PCC agenda.

The Point Phonebook.

This book was now well out of date and it was suggested that we try and get it revised. There is a chance that there is a digital copy of the book which would enable easier update. This would be investigated further.

It was judged that it could be a worthwhile project for the P7 pupils.

Item to be discussed at the next meeting

Next Meetings

- Monday 30th January 2017 (Point and Sandwick Trust office)
- Monday 13th March 2017 (Point and Sandwick Trust office)

These meetings will take place at 7.30 pm

Meeting closed at 9.00pm with the customary Christmas tea/ coffee and cakes (Thanks to Matt and Zena)

Lewis Shand