

Minute of Meeting: Point Community Council

In: Point & Sandwick Trust office, Knock, Isle of Lewis.

On: Monday 13th March 2107

At: 7.30 pm

PRESENT

Matt Bruce (Chair)
Donald MacRitchie (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Zena Stewart
Chris Mackenzie

Norman MacLeod
Lewis Shand
Norman Macdonald

APOLOGIES

Cllr Alasdair MacLeod
Edmund McGregor (Treasurer)
Agnes Munro
Angus Lamont

Cllr Norman MacLeod
Malcolm Dalzel-Job
Alec John Murray

ATTENDING

Jane Nicolson, Police Scotland
Carol Knott

Steve Oliver, Scottish Fire & Rescue
Ian McHardy

Minutes of previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of Monday 30th January were approved.

Eilean na Marbh archeological survey

Carol and Ian were attending the meeting and gave a “layman’s” term explanation of the recent survey done on the island, which specifically examined burnt deposits uncovered at the time. They handed out a synopsis to those present.

Carol gave a history of the investigation.

In 2008 Alex John and Carol visited the sea stack and found obvious signs of habitation within a manmade wall. The habitation was estimated at 2000 years ago.

Following this, tenders were invited for further exploration and a dig.

Funding was not forthcoming, and there was a reluctance to start any work.

However, Carol and a team commenced an unfunded dig on behalf of the community which required specialised access to the stack, and a trench excavation.

This had resulted in the micro-morph study report.

There was obviously something worth investigating on the stack, but any further work would be both time consuming and expensive, especially with the lack of available funding sources.

Matt thanked Carol and Ian for all the work they had put into the project.

The PCC will revisit this project once we have a full complement of members present. Funding would be a challenge.

The new Point coastal path project could reroute closer to the sea stack and may be source of future funding.

Police Scotland issues

Jane Nicolson had come along to the meeting as the Police Scotland representative. Either Jane or Danny Smith (Swordale) will in future attend the PCC meetings.

Dangerous parking on the main road.

This was a difficult issue as there was no definite breach of the highway code or a road traffic offence for the points raised. However, if the instances continued to give concern the local police would carry out a visit.

Norrie raised the issue of 3 car pavement parking in Shader at a summit. Jane asked that should it recur he report it to “101” and they would investigate

Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS)

Steve Oliver introduced himself and gave an overview of the role and objectives of the SFRS within the Western Isles and their community plan. The Western Isles are split into areas and the Stornoway district has two Crew Managers, himself and Ross Macrae.

Steve gave a concise appraisal of the district and Point in particular. Asked about a fire station in Point he explained that the low callout rate could not justify one. It was not just a matter of a station, but engines and crew would be needed.

Regarding the closure of the Braighe, he explained contingency plans that would allow a fire engine across, and the capability to perform ambulance medivac if necessary. Fire and rescue personal are trained first aiders.

If severe weather is forecast there are plans to relocate a machine to Point over a possible Braighe closure.

He was also keen that his personnel undertake home fire risk assessments, especially for elderly or infirm residents, He would make notices available for the shop with a contact phone number to request a visit.

Matters arising from the minutes

Defibrillators.

Since our last meeting a defibrillator had been provided at Ionad Stoodie. This leaves the one at the Tumpain-head end to be resolved. The outstanding amount needed (£450) will be made available from the PCC social fund. Norrie will get in touch with Grace Smith, Chair of the Tumpainhaed community association to arrange a location and the necessary power feed arrangements. Matt will email Angus Morrison regarding the machine purchase.

Roads

Nothing to report. Several issues ongoing

Co-option of additional PCC members

Nothing to report

Treasurers report

Following the decision at the last meeting regarding transferring monies from the community fund to the PCC accounts for defibs, it had come to the attention of the PCC that the monies were to be used specifically for the coastal path project. Accordingly, the £342.05p would be remitted to the coastal path project trust.

Norrie made the PCC aware of the ongoing money raising efforts for the forthcoming "Island Games" which will be held this year in Sweden. He gave us a brief idea of the costs involved, and was looking for financial help. This would be discussed in detail at the next meeting with more members present

Councillors report

Zena and Norman had made it known that they would not be standing for re-election at the forthcoming council elections. Alisdair would be seeking re-election. We have subsequently found out that there will be 6 candidates in the ballot .

Broadbay locality planning group; Health and social partnership

Agnes was unable to be at the meeting, so nothing further to report at this time

Community Challenge Fund

Nothing to report

Future plans and actions for PCC Item for discussion at next meeting

Planning applications Nothing to report

Training issues Nothing to report on any further courses,

Publicity and tasks for the PCC Nothing to report

Utilities

Broadband service. Nothing to report

SSE community resilience plan. Nothing to report

Scottish Water. Nothing to report

Correspondence Nothing to report

A.O.C.B

Infestation of Gunnera. Project ongoing

The Point Phonebook. Project to be discussed at the next meeting

Braighe gravestones. Nothing to report from AGM as Alisdair absent

Craft fair in Point. A recent craft fair in Harris had been very successful. Would we hold one? Item to be discussed at next meeting

Crown Estate consultation. Members to comment by 21st March. Matt will do a PCC response.

Point and Sandwick Trust (PST) initiative. PST want to explore a potential small business opportunity involving Gyproc (plasterboard) re-cycling involving an initial feasibility study.
PCC agreed to support this endeavour.

Inter-island games funding. Norrie has advised Point competitors to apply to PCC personally before the next meeting on 8th May

Next Meetings

- Monday 8th May 2017 (Point and Sandwick Trust office)
- Monday 19th June 2017 (Point and Sandwick Trust office)
- Monday 4th September 2017 (Point and Sandwick Trust office)

These meetings will take place at 7.30 pm