

CASTLEBAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in Castlebay School on Monday, 10 April at 19:00

PRESENT:	Micheal Galbraith	Chair	Christina MacNeil	Vice-Chair
	Iain G MacNeil	Treasurer	Marie MacLeod	Clerk
	Eoin MacNeil	Committee	Marion MacNeil	Committee
	Donald Manford	Councillor	Geraldine Cowan (N0186)	Police Officer
	Seonaidh	Community		

APOLOGIES: Angus MacNeil Committee

Welcome

Micheal Galbraith welcomed those in attendance.

Matters Arising From Previous Minutes (Thursday, 24 November 2016)

- **Facebook Group:** - This has been created since last our meeting; it was agreed that the group's current privacy settings should be changed from 'closed' to 'open'. It was further agreed that the Minutes should be uploaded to the group once they've been approved.
- **Litter Problem:** - There is to be a meeting held this Wednesday in order to talk about how to tackle the bin and litter problem around the Co-op and by the football field. It was acknowledged that it was a positive start that they plan to meet up and tackle this issue. MG felt that it would be beneficial to attend the meeting. It was agreed that during the meeting it would be a good idea to request extra bins, particularly during the summer months; a notice on the bins would then be advisable in order to deter holidaymakers/campervans using the bins for their own use. It was also noted that if the area is maintained on a regular basis then it wouldn't be such a problem. It was agreed that the Co-op can't wash their hands of the issue and that they have to recognise their responsibility, it was felt that if they were to have, for example, a boxed in compound area for bins then that would go a long way in helping to tackle the issue.
- Cllr DM updated the group that it may be feasible to access one of the units in order to run the shop out of it for that period. Now another element is being discussed, onto land for second phase, all-purpose sports area, if they can get onto that then it may be possible to operate from that site to build, if that's the case then they might not need to close the Co-op at all, or if they do need to close it, it may only be for a few weeks. Discussions are still ongoing.
- **Barra Games Receipt:** - CMN has received a letter but has forgotten to bring it with her to tonight's meeting.
- **Play Park:** - IGMN has received a reply to his request, unfortunately he was advised that there is currently no money available, however they would consider our request at their next meeting.
- **Letter CalMac:** - Cllr DM has received a note from CalMac whereby they have agreed to put forward our proposal to the Ferry User Group; CalMac have in principle agreed to have a layup in Barra on Saturday and an additional sailing on Tuesday but it has to go through the Ferry User Group first and they are unlikely to meet up before June (they will likely meet at some point after the election). There was no comment in response to Lochboisdale days.
- **Meeting with Malcolm Burr:** - Malcolm was due to visit Barra before now but it didn't work out due to bad weather, he will try to come at the end of this month.
- **Drug Concern:** - MG has since spoken to local sergeant in Benbecula and in Barra over concerns raised. PC Geraldine Cowan, based in Stornoway but covering Barra, was in attendance at tonight's meeting. GC said that the police need to be made aware of any issues so the community need to report, in confidence, to the police about concerns or intelligence they may have. It was agreed that it would be a good deterrent to those bringing drugs onto our island if there was the regular presence of a sniffer dog to meet the ferry. GC said she would highlight to the Inspector in Stornoway that we would be keen to see the sniffer dog in Barra. GC also noted that from her experience in covering Barra, the prevalence of drug use is not all that high, she was personally more concerned about the underage drinking that she witnessed.
EMN's work has plans for one of their staff members to go into the school and talk to pupils about being more aware of the effects of drugs and alcohol. He also has plans to make members of the community aware of the wide variety of Support Services numbers that are available to them; he will work on putting that information into the Guth Bharraigh.

Action: - EMN to put Support Services numbers into the Guth Bharraigh

Transport

- **Ferries:** - It was felt that the temporary disabled access via the gangway is a disgrace. It is very steep and difficult to get up and down, particularly whilst carrying heavy bags. It was noted that wheels can push up the stainless steel plates on the gangway which then serve as an obstacle for the walking public. Audit Scotland Commissions are to visit the island. They have agreed to a meeting, to be held on Tuesday, 18 April in Castlebay Hall, Board Room at 18:00. Cllr DM is looking for 12-14 people from Community Councils to attend the meeting, it is not a public meeting. Brian Fulton, Community Director for CalMac, is passing through the island and has asked to meet with Cllr DM, which he has agreed to do. Brian will arrive Wednesday, 19 April. One of the things Cllr DM will ask is for Brian to come back to the island at a later date in order to meet with the entire community. There are issues with CalMac staff parking their vehicles on Barra for the duration of their trip; this is particularly an issue in the height of summer when these cars are parked along the side of the road, making it dangerous for pedestrians. MacNeil of Barra has said that he is willing to open up the area near the police station in order to build a car park for possibly 10-12 cars. This raises the issue of whether CalMac should be asked to pay for the entrance site to the car park or if they should encourage crew to leave their cars in Oban. It was felt that Barra should work alongside CalMac in order to find a solution to this. IG will write to Shona to ask what progress has been made to the proposed car park area.

Action: - IG to write to Shona to ask what progress has been made to the proposed car park area

- **Planes:** - Three flights a day, on 17 days. Although this is good news for Barra it also creates a bit of a headache: what would happen if a flight was cancelled? The airport could struggle to find accommodation for stranded passengers. Additional Car parking: council appear to be on our side but HIAL say that the problem is not entirely theirs. It was recognised that it's more than just an airport as they are a tourist attraction too. Renovations to building will cost £500,000 next year. Flybe are changing to Loganair after September (new booking system).
- **Buses:** - timetable has now been set and a notice appeared in the Guth. A positive response was received from the community and the dial-a-bus is being well used. The timetable will be reviewed again after the summer.
- **Roads:** - Allasdale Bridge has now been completed to an acceptable standard. Craigston Bridge is due to be fixed next. Ask to review and reconsider bypass, EMN to action.

Action: - EMN to e-mail council and ask them to reconsider bypass.

Tarmac previously came to Barra via Oban but CalMac won't allow them to run a burner on the vessel, therefore the tar has to be stored in an insulated box. Barra has not seen road surfacing since 2013, the council needs to stop abandoning the island.

NHS/Council Locality Plan Update

Meeting to be held next week, possibly 17th April. They have agreed priorities and have 25 key actions to address. A few people are scheduled to come down to meeting, including Paul Dundass, senior member employed by the council. There is no further update re hospital however an Outline Business Case has been submitted to the Government Capital Finance Group. We will get a new hospital and a home and once the green light has been received, it will take approximately two years before completion.

Castlebay Regeneration

It was noted that it would be good to start looking at a Castlebay Regeneration, particularly as our centre is tatty looking and is in general need of a facelift. In theory a group of people would sit around a table discussing what needs to be done before then trying to secure funding. Roads should be a priority, chiefly potholes and the widening of the road. Obtaining external funding may prove to be difficult, it might therefore be necessary to create a theme in order to attract funding i.e. Herring Walk. Scottish Government Regeneration Fund saw that the money was received in order for the completion of the pontoons. MMN to e-mail and invite Dr Ewan Scott to talk about Regeneration Fund at next meeting.

Action: - MMN to e-mail Dr Ewan Scott, inviting to give input re Regeneration at next meeting

Community Empowerment

If this were a reality then the community would have more of a say on how best to regenerate the island. Crown Estates, Scottish Government says that as money is generated from around our shores then a proportion of that money should be returned to the local community. If this were to happen then the money would be used to regenerate the island, thus benefiting the whole community. £6,000 was recently given to Uist and Barra for new sporting equipment. Individuals in Barra put in a bid to receive some of our old gym equipment which would then have benefited local groups, however they were told that their application wasn't as good as the one proposed by Uist and so the Uist community benefited from all of our old equipment.

Treasurer Update

2015 – Outgoings: £265.43, Income: £0
2016 – Outgoings £1,475.69, Income: £2,000
2017 – Outgoings: £10, Income: £0
Current Balance – £8,432.96

Annually we pay £265 in insurance for the Herring Walk

To date we have never applied for Challenge Fund Grant as there has not been a suitable project.

AOCB

- It should be noted that Cllr. Donald's help and support over the years has been greatly appreciated, the committee would like to formally thank him for his continued support and for coming to the meetings regularly.
- The committee would also like to extend our thanks to PC Andy McHardy for all the work he's done, and continues to do, for the young people of Barra.
- It was agreed that the next meeting should be scheduled for the end of June 2017 and that the exact date will be finalised nearer the time.

Micheal thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 21:04

Date of Meeting	Action	Updates	Action Against	Status
08.02.16	Facebook Page or other	Facebook Group created	Marie	Closed
27.06.16	Contact Council to place more Bins around Football Field	Look at either possible access passed Padula's for bin lorries to pick-up rubbish, or transport bins up on collection days	Micheal	On going
29.09.16	Contact Iain GG Campbell – CnES regarding state of C/bay Play Park	No funds available, will review again at their next meeting.	Iain G	Closed
29.09.16	Contact Co-op regarding Waste Management	Letter sent and received a response back from Co-op manager	Micheal	Closed
29.09.16	Letter to Malcolm Burr – CnES Chief Executive; regarding reinstatement of Benbecula/Barra flights	Malcolm to meet with Cllr Donald at the end of April. Letter was sent to Malcolm	Micheal	Closed
29.09.16	Contact David Smart – CnES Bus Timetable	e-Mail sent, still awaiting response. Bus contractor held feedback session with community	Eoin	Closed
29.09.16	Letter/e-mail to Jessie M ^{ac} Neil (Chair of Locality Group) regarding concerns of the CPN	Eoin e-mailed Jessie	Eoin	Closed
24.11.16	Letter/e-mail to CalMac requesting additional Tuesday sailing on winter timetable	CalMac have agreed to put forward our request to Ferry User Group at their next meeting	Cllr Donald	On going
24.11.16	Bus: Arrange meeting with Malcolm Burr and Transport representative for January	New timetable in place, positive response from community	Cllr Donald	Closed
24.11.16	Community Empowerment: Arrange meeting for 16.12.16. Alasdair Allan will be in attendance	Meeting set-up for 16 th Dec	Cllr Donald	Closed
24.11.16	Letter/e-mail Chief Inspector re concerns over increased drug use	Local police will inform Inspector in Stornoway of our desire to have a sniffer dog meet the ferry on a regular basis.	Micheal	Closed
10.04.17	Support Services numbers into the Guth Bharraigh	No update	Eoin	On going
10.04.17	Write to Shona to ask what progress has been made to the proposed car park area.	No update	Iain G	On going
10.04.17	e-Mail council to ask them to reconsider bypass at Craigston Bridge	No update	Eoin	On going
10.04.17	e-Mail & invite Dr Ewan Scott to talk about Regeneration at this meeting	No update	Marion	On-going