

CASTLEBAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the Fire Station, Castlebay on 19th June 2017 at 6.30pm

PRESENT:	Michael Galbraith	Chair	Iain G MacNeil	Treasurer
	Marion MacNeil	Member	Eoin MacNeil	Member
	Angus MacNeil	Member	Cllr Donald Manford	

APOLOGIES: Marie MacLeod (Clerk), Cllr Iain MacNeil, Cllr Paul Steele, Cllr Calum MacMillan

In respect of the recent Manchester terrorist attack which sadly took the life of one of our young - Eilidh MacLeod, and badly injured another - Laura MacIntyre, the Community Council took time to reflect on the sad and difficult time that swept through our community. The island has been overwhelmed with correspondence from other Community Councils and people from across the world offering their condolences and thoughts to the families and island people. In a time of need, the community united as one and we take pride in how strong, caring and protective we are as an island. Our thoughts and support continues for the MacLeod and MacIntyre families.

Michael welcomed those in attendance and apologies received. Marion agreed to take the minutes of tonight's meeting.

Eoin MacNeil proposed the minutes of the meeting 10th April 2017, seconded by Marion MacNeil.

1. MATTER'S ARISING – ACTION POINTS

- **Litter Issues:** Michael has contacted Mairead MacNab (Cnes Technical Services) in Uist to requested extra bins for the football/play area in Castlebay. New bins are on order but may be end of July before they arrive. **ACTION:** *Continue to monitor.*
- **Additional Sailing:** Cal Mac have agreed to an additional Tuesday sailing in the forthcoming Winter timetable.
- **Local Support Services:** No update. **ACTION:** *Eoin to meet with Gill Russell – Drugs & Alcohol Officer to discuss the services on offer.*
- **Proposed Car-park in Castlebay:** Iain G. confirmed that Cal Mac agreed to fund the site preparation works for a car park area as a goodwill gesture. This will be located on the waste ground behind the main street, and create parking for 10/12 cars. A contractor has priced the works and this has been forwarded to Cal Mac for final approval.
ACTION: *Cllr Donald to speak to Rory MacNeil of Barra regarding any land issues.*
- **Craigston Bridge By-Pass:** No update. **ACTION:** *Eoin to speak to Technical Services.*
- **Regeneration Projects:** No update. **ACTION:** *Marion to invite Euan Scott to next meeting.*

2. TRANSPORT

a. CAL MAC

Cllr Donald gave a brief update on his recent meeting with representatives of Cal Mac – including the Director of Communities. His focus was on ‘how to improve communication between Cal Mac and the Community’. Concern was raised over the ferry deployment plan in 2018 as to what ferry would be used for the future Barra – Oban route. It was noted that it was imperative that the Community must be better represented on the Ferry User’s Group.

ACTION: *Michael to email Brian Fulton (cc Ranald Robertson from Hitrans) to ask how we can be better represented and to invite him to meet with the Community Council.*

Cllr Donald noted that Audit Scotland had collated all responses but no feedback as yet regarding the recent consultation.

b. CMAL

Cllr Donald expressed his disappointment that the community are excluded from any form of consultation with CMAL regarding the future infrastructure around Castlebay pier. It is understood that the jetty at Castlebay has been given to Cmal (from Cnes ownership), although this has yet to be officially confirmed. It was noted that CCTV will be installed within the next few weeks around the pier area.

ACTION: *Cllr Donald to email the Chief Executive of CMAL to express the major concern over the lack of consultation with the community.*

c. INTER ISLAND FERRY

It was noted that the demand for the Eriskay – Ardmhor route often exceeds car capacity resulting in fully booked ferries during the summer season. A suggestion was put forward to run an additional service in the afternoon during the peak summer period.

ACTION: *Cllr Donald to contact Graham Laidlaw – Transport Scotland to request, following the RET implementation, that an assessment is carried out on the Sound of Barra ferry demand.*

d. FLIGHTS

Michael provided an update as to the 26 additional flights being provided over the summer to meet with demand. (this is in addition to the current 2 flights per day). It was noted that this resulted from a positive meeting with Humza Yousaf, Minister for Transport and the Islands.

ACTION: *Cllr Donald to seek to develop dialogue with Loganair and Transport Scotland over future potentials.*

e. BUS SERVICES

No issues recorded and services are currently well used.

f. TRANSPORT AND OUR ECONOMY

It has been recognised that transport links to the island are at capacity – particularly during the peak season – and constraining the island's capacity to grow. The role of Highland & Enterprise and the Comhairle was questioned with regard to the opportunities and forward thinking of tourism on the islands.

ACTION: *Eoin to write to Humza Yousaf to express the success of transport which has now created an opportunity for growth within the community in businesses, facilities, social enterprises, employment. An impact assessment is required immediately to identify the demands and allow for future successes.*

6. AOCB

Barra Flag

The island community put forward the proposal for a recognised 'Barra flag'. The design has been in place for a number of years and already, there are many significant products using the 'flag' such as items for sale (fridge magnets, emblems on t-shirts) to it being uploaded on many island websites. Northbay Community Council are putting forward the proposal for the official recognition and Castlebay Community Council fully support this initiative.

Michael thanked everyone for attending the meeting and proposed that the next meeting would be held in September 2017.