

Castlebay & Vatersay Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held in Castlebay Community School Thursday, 7th December at 18:30

Present:	Michael Galbraith	Chair	Eoin MacNeil	Committee
	Iain G MacNeil	Treasurer	Angus MacNeil	Committee
	Marion MacNeil	Committee	Donald Manford	Councillor
	Monica MacKinnon	Clerk		
	Seonaidh MacLennan	Public		

Apologies: Christina MacNeil, Blair Moglia, Cllr Iain MacNeil

• Welcome

Michael Galbraith welcomed all in attendance and introduced Monica as Clerk.

2. Matters of Previous meeting (Monday, 25 September 2017)

Amendment to previous minutes: Marion MacNeil did not agree to apply for funding the matter of available funding was just discussed. Marion MacNeil and Eoin MacNeil have agreed to work together to investigate available funding.

Minutes were proposed by E MacNeil and seconded by I G MacNeil

3. Herring walk

- It is estimated that £2000 would be needed to repair the walkway and the herring barrels.
- Euan Scott investigated links between Herring walk and pontoons (an extension to the current walkway) and found it would cost £30,000.
- Angus MacNeil suggested doing a buy a brick scheme where members of the public could purchase a brick and have it personalised, each brick being used to make the path.
- Eoin MacNeil mentioned that Voluntary Action are partly responsible for the herring walk however, not financially.

Action: Marion & Eoin to explore any avenues for funding

4. Castlebay Play Park

- Iain G MacNeil emailed Iain Campbell regarding an opportunity of funding for Castlebay play park.
Iain Campbell replied saying he would get back to him once funding becomes available.
- A public announcement of available funds for 6 Play Parks was made. Iain G MacNeil received no update from Iain Campbell and will email again to chase up.
- If there is still no response Iain G MacNeil will email Bernard Chisholm regarding the matter.

Action: IG reminder email to Iain Campbel & email Bernard Chisholm

5. Bypass at Craigston Bridge

- Job is now complete. No further action needed. However, it was noted that it may have been better planning if the bridge was constructed for two lane traffic (future - spinal route).

6. CalMac Infrastructure

- Barra currently is not on their 10 year plan
- Calmac have established a new board made up of community members, set up to influence/recommend to the main board from a community point of view.
- The Community Board remit doesn't allow alterations to timetables, however, it does open opportunities or a channel for the community of Barra to raise concerns, suggestions for improvement etc.
- Where CalMac intend running various courses, for its own employees, it has been suggested that they open 2 or 3 spaces for people within the communities as this serves to take advantage of gaining more cost effective qualifications.

Action: Eoin to provide any updates from meetings

7. Planes

- Michael Bratcher (Transport Scotland - Aviation) chaired his annual review meeting this week with local representatives. The focus was on the Current and future service provided by PSO for Barra.
- Michael confirmed that a ring fence on the total number of flights for Barra in the year would still stand, however, an option could be to reduce some of the 2 flights in the winter (on certain day/s) to allow for additional flights in the summer for peak periods ie 3 flights per day (as was the case this summer with the addition of 18 extra Glasgow rotations) or allow an additional flight on the Sunday bringing it to 2 flights a day.
- Concessionary fares for locals with a higher fare for tourists was talked about. The current ADS scheme could help with the booking system. However, great caution & further discussion would need to be exercised before going down this route. It is different to other air services in that it is not commercial service, it is a vital life line. The current price is subsidised by the government. The air discount scheme works by the government covering 50% of the discount price through subsidy. The P.S.O is contracted with the government to provide service and caps the price. This cap should represent the average wage of people on the island. If introduction of the ticket price range you would be moving towards the ADS scheme and may sweep away the P.S.O obligation. The EU and EC may also no longer be held to obligation. The subsidy is paid by tax payer's money to provide a service for all members of the country not just islanders.
- Day return trips are not marketed in the summer, only between November to March.
- The Contract allows Loganair to give a lower fare 7 weeks prior to booking. Loganair have said that they are looking at allowing lower fares availability up to 2 weeks prior to booking.
- Loganair and Transport Scotland are currently looking into reserving a couple of seats (Mon to Fri) for hospital appointment patients, however, there may be time restrictions on bookings before opening up to the general public.

Action: Eoin to email Humza Yousaf regarding Air Service on its importance to the community

8. Foot path

- Iain G MacNeil is awaiting a response from Malcolm Burr.
- It's the groups understanding that it's council responsibility 1m either side of the road. Work at either side of the road needs to be done through a Traffic Order and would have to have a certificated worker carry out maintenance.
- Castlebay footpath - IG to contact Tech services as there is still no update.
- Revenue funding would be needed for regular maintenance on footpath, under current situation the council wouldn't want to fund this.

Action: IG to chase up Malcolm Burr on any updates

9. Signage and Dog bins

- Malcolm Burr has emailed his head of department to put more signage in Vatersay.
- It is suggested that a project for review on signage on Barra is needed.

Action: MG to email Council regarding additional Signage

10. Informing Community on Community Council Progress

- Eoin will put regular updates in the Guth to do with Community Council activities/works in progress.

Action: Eoin to put info. into Guth

11. Manchester Fund Account

- Castlebay Community Council are open to receive funds/hold for Manchester Memorial on Barra. Donald Manford will liaise between parties etc.

Action: Donald Manford to liaise on progress

12. Visit Scotland and RBS Closures

- Lewis MacAskill MSP and Alasdair Allan MSP to host a public meeting regarding their closure on Barra along with both Castlebay and Northbay Community council. Dates and invites are being co-ordinated by Angus B MacNeil (for mid January 2018).
- Angus B MacNeil MP awaiting response from Ross McEwan (RBS) regarding Castlebay Branch closure.

Action: Eoin to update date group on any agreed date of meeting

13. Christmas Lights

- Connections for Christmas lights cannot be put in to lamp posts directly. Connecting sockets are planned to be added to various posts in January 2018 (too late for this Christmas).
- £400 donation for the procurment was kindly given to CC from Cllr Iain MacNeil & Cllr P Steele.
- CBAB also have funding towards Christmas lights.

Action: Donald to contact YROW group on putting up lights
Christina - sourcing new Christmas lights

14. Treasurer Update

- £400 for Christmas lights (In)
- £100 from Community dinner for School (Out)
- Current Balance £8886.96

15. Castlebay Children's Centre

- The current heating system on one half of the building (old part) is broken and parents are having to bring in portable heaters to keep the building open.
- The system needs replacing and will cost them £12000 to do this. There are no grants available as it is not an eco system.
- Castlebay Community Council agreed to donate £2000 towards the cost of the new heating system.

Action: IG to write cheque donation to Children Centre Group

16. COBAN (Local Energy Plan)

- Pilot project for rural and mainland Scotland and helps businesses with high energy demand.
- They are looking for ideas (Wind turbines, methane energy etc) that could be used locally on the Island to deliver cheaper energy.

17. Castlebay Community School Head Teacher.

- Castlebay Community Council would like to congratulate Suzanne Forman on her appointment as Castlebay Community School Head Teacher.

Next meeting around February 2018