

Benbecula Community Council

Minute of Meeting held on Thursday 19th October 2017 at 7.00pm at

Tagsa Uibhist Office, East Camp, Balivanich

1. Welcome and Present:

Councillors: Gail Robertson (Chair), Andrew Walker (Clerk), Murdina Naylor (Treasurer), Hugh MacCormick,

CnES: Councillors Uisdean Robertson, Iain MacNeil, and Iain MacLeod

Public: No attendance

Police: WPC Sandra Grant, PC Donnie MacLean (Lewis)

2. Apologies:

Councillor Roddy MacKay, Linda MacDonald

3. Minutes of Meeting of 19th September 2017:

Proposed by Gail, seconded by Murdina

4. Matters Arising:

- (i) Squais Uibhist: Ward Funding of £150 from Wards 1 and 2 Comhairle Members;
- (ii) Play Parks: C'llor MacKay raised concerns about funding/maintenance/closures at Education Committee and decision for proposed actions now continued until December Committee, to give Roddy more time to consult;
- (iii) Housing: C'llor MacNeil confirms £25m capital available for HHP and any other social housing landlord (eg Storas Uibhist). More information on Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP). Additional capital funding being earmarked for Integrated Joint Board (IJB), for residential care home, Lewis, and "extra care" housing for older people. Clerk to write to CnES Director to request speaker attend future meeting of BCC to discuss the Comhairle's proposed Housing Strategy for Benbecula area.
- (iv) CalMac/CMAL public and commercial operatives' consultations. Gail attended, no definite timetable as yet for temporary closure of Lochmaddy Pier, when engineering works are due to proceed (expected in mid-November). Ferry will operate on Uig/Lochboisdale crossing for this period, fares will remain unaltered, although a longer sailing time of three hours.
- (v) Internet Safety, young people: Councillors are monitoring concerns and liaising with key stakeholders regarding safety protocols for young people.

5. Treasurer Report (Murdina):

Murdina reported on present Balance of £8,082.82, with no new Income/Expenditure since previous meeting. Councillor MacLeod advised members not to continue operating with large amount of money in Balance.

6. Correspondence:

Andrew referred to outgoing correspondence he has written on subject of road safety Nunton/Balivanich areas, after receipt of residents' petition at last meeting. Letter has been sent to Police (Chief Insp. MacLeod), Comhairle (Director of Technical Services, Iain MacKinnon), and Editor Am Paipear (Iain Stephen Morrison). Photos also supplied confirming lack of white lining in Nunton, indicative markings still in place. No substantive replies received as yet. WPC Grant will communicate with Chief Inspector re acknowledgement and she informed councillors of measures already put in place by police, highlighting use of speed monitoring gun in Nunton (no breaches recorded).

7. Ward Funding:

No new applications to discuss.

8. Police Report:

WPC Grant provided a breakdown of recorded incidents since last meeting. Total of 94 incidents across the Uists and Barra, 27 specific to Benbecula, mainly from the Balivanich area, and many refer to anti-social behaviour. The police are aware of a petition from the Nunton area, and speed checks have been carried out here, but no offences detected.

Staffing: three newly appointed police constables are due to commence towards the end of November, two will be based in Lochmaddy.

Other issues raised with police were on the subject of (i) MOT Certificates – a grey area, but all drivers advised to ensure cars are road legal, police will still prosecute if no MOT; (ii) Internet safety and security of young people – police continue to liaise closely with schools and other stakeholders concerned about risks to children; (iii) Pathway from Balivanich to East Camp – pedestrians should be advised to wear visible clothing for walking in the dark, but pathway in need of maintenance and white lining (Clerk to raise with the Comhairle); (iv) EDF Site, Lionacleit – concerns raised about litter, general rubbish and “cooking fat” left on site after Festival. Chair to write to EDF Board of Management to request all rubbish be removed. Rubbish Skips were provided on site at time of festival to keep site tidy and free of litter.

9. Members' Report:

Councillor MacLeod referred to a number of relevant items and meetings:

- i. Transport and Infrastructure: Discussions with Minister, seeking help in funding further extension to the Island Spinal Route (Public Service Obligation)
- ii. Loganair Flights – meeting with Chief Officer, Jonathan Hinkles, on 30th October, at UCVO office, with invitation to Community Councils represented on the Association of CC's.
- iii. CalMac – ex Comhairle Leader Angus Campbell presented a Report on recent developments to Members of the Transport Committee (Pier upgrades and new

- ferries). He has been requested to attend a meeting of the Uists Association of CC's in his new role as Chair of the new 12 Member "Community Board".
- iv. Mobile Library – costs and adaptation of new vehicle have exceeded budget, but purchase proceeding.
 - v. Doigheag Respite Home, Iochdar – Tagsa Uibhist involved in lease agreement with the Comhairle, mainly for day care use by a particular service user.
 - vi. Balivanich Regeneration – The Comhairle and HIE are proceeding with preparation of tender document to recruit consultancy to undertake a survey of all public sector, private sector and voluntary organisations use of existing buildings in the locality, and to highlight need for new build (eg UCVO Building, Airport Road, and agencies use of buildings within East Camp). Many of these older buildings now categorised as "not fit for purpose", with concerns about flooding and asbestos materials used in construction.
 - vii. Audit Scotland Report – discussion to take place at next meeting of Uist Association of CC's.
 - viii. Islands' Deal (Island Bill) – HIE are hosting a meeting in Lewis, with representation from the Uists and Barra requested.
 - ix. Visit Scotland – decision to close Tourist Information Offices at Lochboisdale and Lochmaddy taken unilaterally, and without any consultation. Concerns to be raised at next Community Planning Partnership meeting, when Draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) being ratified.
 - x. New Ferry Lochmaddy/Uig/Tarbert – CalMac inviting suggestions for name for new ferry, and suggestions for internal designs and facilities. Councillor Robertson will act as our link with CalMac and CMal. New ferry expected to start sea trials within next 12 months.

10. AOCB

- i. North Uist Link Span – Concrete base is corroding, and being renovated, with closure likely on certain dates from 11pm to 3am. Emergency vehicles will still be allowed to cross over. Hugh queried the cost of this work, and raised the issue about extending the two lane crossing for this final section.
- ii. Broadband – concerns expressed about digging of trenches for wiring and refilling resulting in potholes and road cracking (Torlum area and Telephone exchange, Balivanich). BT Outreach are responsible. Any concerns to be reported to Angus MacDonald, CnES, Balivanich (Clerk will discuss with Angus).
- iii. White Lining Operatives – delays reported may be due to their vehicle being withdrawn from use as a result of RTA concerns.
- iv. Donation of Seating Bench - Gail referred to offer received from relative of recently deceased Benbecula resident, wishing to donate seating bench, in memory of his mother. Suggestions for location were either Culla Bay, Airport Road, or opposite new Primary School, Balivanich. Gail will liaise with family and also Alistair Banks, CnES Planning Dept.

11. Date of Next Meeting:

Thursday 16th November at 7.00pm at Tagsa Uibhist Office, East Camp, Balivanich.

(Andrew Walker, Clerk)

12 November 2017