

Benbecula Community Council

Minute of Meeting held on Thursday 16th November 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 and Iain MacLeod

Public: No attendance

Police: Acting Sgt William Sloan

2. Apologies:

Linda MacDonald and C'Ilor Iain MacNeil

3. Minutes of Meeting of 19th October 2017:

Proposed by Murdina, seconded by Gail (as corrected)

4. Matters Arising:

Play Parks ... Clerk to email C'Ilor Roddy MacKay for update prior to next meeting of Committee.

Lochmaddy Harbour ... closed 13 – 20th November for up-grade, maintenance, as previously discussed. New Timetable for sailings, no extra costs, with ferry on longer sailing to Lochboisdale.

Internet Safety ... Gail maintains contact with relevant agencies. Clerk distributed Code for Young People from Children's Commissioner.

Nunton Traffic Management ... article in Am Paipear has been helpful, traffic now noticeably slower.

Clerk has been in contact with Comhairle Officer, Angus MacDonald, on issues pertaining to "White Lining Nunton", East Camp footpath on main road from Balivanich, BT Potholes Torlum, and assurances were given about progress and work in hand.

Donation of Public Seating Bench ... Gail in contact with Planning Officer, CnES, Balivanich re siting of bench in Balivanich overlooking Airport, from New Primary School.

5. Treasurer Report:

Murdina referred to “Balance” as at last meeting. No requests received for Councillors’ Ward Funding grants. It was suggested that this source of funding should be more widely advertised. Clerk to raise at next meeting of UCVO Third Sector Forum.

6. Correspondence:

The Clerk has written to Calum Iain MacIver the Comhairle Director of Sustainable Development and to C’Illor Robertson regarding “**Strategic Housing Improvement Plan**” and request from BCC that a Uist Meeting proceed under the aegis of the umbrella organisation for the Uist Community Councils (Uist Association of Community Councils). There are concerns that the capital spend over the next three years of £41m is predominately for new house build in the Lewis (72) and Harris (18) areas, with smaller numbers for North Uist (13) and Benbecula (6), and no new build planned for South Uist. Our MSP Dr Allan is writing to the Comhairle and the Scottish Government on this matter. (No date has yet been received by the Clerk for a proposed meeting as requested by BCC.)

Uist LCP of the IJB Health and Social Care ... it was discussed and agreed that BCC representation on this Locality Planning Group will transfer from Murdina to Andrew. The Chair of ULPG will be notified. The proposed relocation of the three island Dental Practices remains high on the agenda, and developments also being monitored by our MSP Dr Allan. Public Meetings are being held later in November in the three localities: South Uist, Benbecula and North Uist.

7. Police Report:

Sgt W. Sloan presented information on the most recent statistics of recorded crime/incidents in the Benbecula area (30 incidents – not all only Police related, some with mental health concerns). A new police constable starts next week, with a background and experience in Road Traffic law and dealing with such incidents. Nunton residents’ concerns about speeding of vehicles has abated since recent residents’ petition. Drug related offence behaviour was noted in one incident, after warrant to search premises was issued on basis of good “intelligence”.

8. Ward Funding:

No current applications. The Clerk referred to Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band hoping to raise £40,000 to fund a trip to America in April to perform during the Scotland “Tartan Week” celebrations in New York, 6th Avenue Parade. The participation of SLPB is being endorsed and supported by the Comhairle and also Visit Scotland. Community Councils in the Uists may be asked to help with funding this prestigious event, as costs of travel and accommodation will be considerable. The Clerk will bring to attention of the Chair of SLPB, John Daniel Peteranna.

9. Members’ Report:

A number of issues and recent developments and initiatives by councillors were discussed, including:

- Formation of Budget Board, with councillor from each of the nine Wards. Comhairle Budget Strategy being formulated. Meeting on 20th December.
- Member/Officer Working Groups established for Service Committees (MOWG's)
- Road Maintenance concerns No local tar plant, and no new roads planned
- Audit Scotland Ferries Review with Transport Scotland (Ferry Users Group Meeting on 14th December)
- Tourist Information Offices – concerns about closures at Lochboisdale, Lochmaddy and Tarbert with no public consultation by Visit Scotland agency
- Airport Parking ... Bye Laws being introduced regarding parking
- Islands' Bill proceeding through Scottish Parliament. Island "proofing" of all legislation should promote understanding of island issues cf mainland (eg cost of housebuilding and related grants)
- Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership (OHCPP) meets again on Barra next week
- Economic Task Force, Uists – meets again on 29th November. No meeting since July. New Chair to be elected from local councillor group.
- Single Island Authority (Public Sector Reform). Awaiting any developments from Scottish Government
- Roll out of Superfast Broadband discussed.

10. Other Competent Business:

Broadband ... Vodafone 4G is available as an alternative to BT, and attractive rental agreements are available, on par with superfast broadband.

11. Date of Next Meeting:

Originally set for 18th January, but this date cancelled and changed to Thursday 15th February 2018 at 7.00pm to be held at East Camp, Balivanich, Tagsa Uibhist office.

Andrew Walker

Clerk, Benbecula Community Council