

## Castlebay & Vatersay Community Council

### Minutes of the meeting held in Castlebay Fire Station Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 18:30

<b>Present:</b>	Michael Galbraith	Chair	Iain G MacNeil	Treasurer
	Christina MacNeil	Committee	Marion MacNeil	Committee
	Donald Manford	Councillor	Monica MacKinnon	Clerk
	Paul Steel	Councillor	John MacLennan	Public
	Iain MacNeil	Councillor	Finley MacRae	CalMac
	Blair Moglia	CalMac	Sarah Rose MacLean	Public
	Katie Denehy	Public	Karen McLean	Public

**Apologies:** Eoin MacNeil, Angus MacNeil, Cllr Calum MacMillan

- **Welcome:** Michael Galbraith welcomed all in attendance.
- **Matters of previous meeting (25<sup>th</sup> December 2017)**

Minutes were proposed by IG MacNeil and seconded by M MacNeil

#### **Herring Walk**

- In order to get funding for the Herring walk a new project would have to be started.
- There may be challenge funding which would need to be match funded and will have to be looked into by June.
- The area is currently in need of the grass to be cut. KML informed the community council that Donnie (drummer) has previously been cutting the grass off of his own back.
- KD also informed the Community Council that CBAB (Euan Scott) has looked into available funding for the area through the WILL Lottery however the funding is only small and would not stretch to the £2000 needed.
- Euan Scott and Neil MacKinnon CBAB have also looked into replacing the barrels.
- KML informed the group that putting bins around the area would be problematic for being emptied.
- MG said it would be beneficial if the CC council be updated on any work projects that CBAB have in the planning (save duplication of work). KD said that she would pass this request onto Euan.

**Action:** KD to speak with Euan, asking for a brief on work streams

#### **Play Parks**

- MG - It's the Council's plan to pass the responsibility of the community play parks to a local community group such as the community council or similar or they will be closed and dismantled, as the Council don't have the finance to maintain or develop them due to budget cuts.
- The ward 1 £12,000 and ward 2 £10,900 funding availability. PS and IMN suggested that an 'umbrella group' should be created between Uist and Barra for funds to hold the funds in North Uist Youth Development group.
- Both of Barra's play parks fall into the Ward 1 category.
- Vatersay play park is owned by the Vatersay community.
- The £12,000 will be a one-off payment.

- IMN informed the group that liability insurance for the park will be at an estimated cost of £100 per annum.
- The offer of the Ward 1 money would have to be accepted by the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2018.
- The community council agreed in principal to be a steering group and IGMN agreed to be the point of contact.
- MMN asked if there were any funds available from CBAB generated from the wind turbine?
- KD informed the community council that there would be no money available in the near future. The money is currently being used for the Marina and two new members of staff.
- CBAB have agreed to give further updates if any funding comes available.

**Action: Cllr IMN and Cllr PS will feedback to Community Council.**

### **Footpaths**

- It's the wish of Castlebay community council to have the footpath extended from Heatherhill through Castlebay possibly as far as Leidaig.
- IMN commented on the fact it is a safety aspect and will have to be carried out.
- Malcom Burr Chief Executive was emailed regarding this matter and replied with the need to undertake a feasibility study.

### **Signage and dog bins**

- Issues with regards to signage to St Brendan's Hospital have been addressed and the matter is now closed.

### **Manchester Memorial Fund**

- Castlebay Council are open to receive funds/hold for a Manchester Memorial on Barra.
- Awaiting update on matter.

## • **Transport**

### **Ferries**

- BM gave his apologies for not being able to make previous arranged meetings.
- There are changes happening throughout CalMac within departments and the different layers.
- BM informed that there are 3 different groups for CalMac, The Community Stakeholders Partnership, Ferry Community and the new Community Board. Eoin MacNeil is a board member representative for our area on the Community Board.
- BM asked if the CC group have seen the terms of reference? MG circulated these terms via email on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2018.
- BM informed the group that the previous minutes for CalMac meetings are available on the CalMac web page.
- Dedicated CSR manager is Shona Neil.
- MG asked if there were any plans for Barra's vessel?
- As it stands currently, there are issues with sharing vessels on various ports and CalMac's assets are being reduced. Bringing gas and animals to and from the island also pose issues with meeting safety regulations.
- FMR stated that CalMac are working alongside the NFU to get a better understanding of guidelines for the transportation of animals, however progress is being made to improving the process.
- Any decision will always be at the Master's discretion, as they are responsible for everything on the vessel.
- MG asked why the Isle of Barra is not appearing on CMAL's Capital plans for future development for the next 10 years?

- FMR said that CalMac have currently completed works in Arran and are now focusing on the Triangle and Armadale, who are in much need of attention. Castlebay is in good order and has only minor issues needing addressed, but not as major as other ports, however the plans could possibly be looked at in 2020. FML says it's not to say that they cannot be put on to the plan before then if priority needs arise.
- MG informed them of the current problem with short term parking around the one-way street. Currently if a car is parked outside the office whilst getting tickets neither a bus or HGV can get through, thus holding up traffic right up the street and very often vehicles need to mount the kerb/footpath to enable passage through. This in itself has safety issues that seriously need addressing.
- KML seconds this and also raises her concerns for the summer as it worsens.
- FML hopes that with the crew parking facility which will be put in place will free spaces across from the ticket office. The staff parking provides 10 spaces and will be financially supported by CalMac, however, BM asked if the planning application could be done by the CC. DML agreed to undertake this.

**Action:** Cllr DM to oversee the planning application for CALMAC staff parking area.

#### Planes

- The community council is currently engaged in discussion with Michael Bratcher of Transport Scotland (Aviation) and is looking at the possibility of increasing the number of summer flights by approximately 62. 22 of the flights may be financed by Transport Scotland, however, for the other 40, Barra would have to swap from the winter months, down to 1 flight a day. Looking at current figures this would only be possible for a small number of the flights.
- It was suggested that the additional third flights be only available to book 1 month in advance, to benefit locals.
- Two seats (both in & out) a day are reserved for NHS patient travel. If the seats are not used, then they would go on to general public sale. It's suggested too that this gets managed locally on Barra (Loganair).
- The day return promotion, which is currently advertised through winter months will be withdrawn allowing up to 6 extra seats to be available on winter flights (for the days that only one flight will be flying).
- The Community Council agreed to seek feedback from the community before taking a decision.

**Action:** MG to put information in Guth Bharraidh and update group on any progress.

#### Roads

- The CC all agreed and raised their concerns on the very poor state of our roads. Those concerns will need to be passed on to senior figures within the Council. MG agreed to write to Malcolm Burr.
- It is believed that surveys are to be undertaken in March by Council engineers.
- A suggestion was to also take photos of the roads and pot holes.

**Action:** MG to write to Malcom Burr.

#### • Visit Scotland/RBS closures

- The January public meeting did not happen.

- IMN informed the group that Uist tried everything to fight the Tourist Office closure, however was unsuccessful. Harris and Stornoway will be given so many months to prove their viability and a decision will be made on the closure of 1 of the 2 branches.
  - Visit Scotland have closed their branch in Uist.
  - The building cannot be leased only sold.
  - Barra tourist information office has been closed.
  - It has not been confirmed what will happen with the building.
  - SRML said that the Buth Bharraidh will be delivering an information service from Buth Bharraigh.
  - They will be opening the shop in the evening to be a point of contact for tourists when the ferry comes in.
- **Buth Bharraigh Building Lease**
    - No further updates from the council.
    - SRML said they are currently considering two options, depending on funding. However, their preferred option is to stay in the present building (old Co-op).
    - The old Co-op building is wind and water tight.
    - They would rather keep the Buth Bharraidh on the street and in that area of Castlebay.
    - They looked at the old surgery however, the NHS is looking for too much money for the disrepair of the building.
- **Island Preparations**
    - Leaflets, highlighting good road manners etc, have been distributed to the Buth Bharraidh and various hotels on the island.
    - BM offered CALMAC advertising space onboard the Barra ferry.
- **Proposed summit**
    - DM gave a brief on the state of play with regards to holding a summit on Barra. MSP Alastair Allan is keen for this to happen. When an agreed date is set, this will be circulated to all concerned.
- **Treasurer's Update**
    - Spent £2,000 on Barra Children's Centre on fixing the heating system.
    - Spent £300 for Lego Robotics Science trip to Glasgow.
    - £7,900 left in the pot.
- **AOCB**
    - **Muir burning**
      - Castlebay Community would like to thank the Fire Service (SFRS & HIAL), RNLI and volunteers that helped at the various fires on Barra Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> of March and Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2018.
      - MG agreed to speak to the Guth to publish a piece on the dangers and responsibilities of muir burning.
- **Cockles**
    - CMN discussed local concerns with the number of cockles that are currently being harvested from the Traigh Mhor.
    - Barratlantic and other organisations are controlled and do have a regulating order however, there are some concerns for conservation of the stock levels of cockles.
    - The demand for cockles is huge however, the beach may need a rest.
    - CMN agreed to look into seeking a limited ban on cockle extraction.

**Action:** CMN to look into the possibility of a limited ban on cockling.