

NORTH TOLSTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Note of meeting of the North Tolsta Community Council held at the Community Hall, North Tolsta, on Tuesday 20 March 2018, at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Anna Mackenzie (AMK); Angus Murray (AM); Cllr John A MacIver (JAM); John A MacIver (JM); Fiona Black (FB); Cllr Calum Maclean; Fiona MacLeod (FM).

APOLOGIES: Cllr Donald Crichton.

CHAIR:

In the absence of the Chair, John MacIver chaired the meeting.

Proposed: Cllr John A MacIver

Seconded: Fiona Black

1. Note of the Last Meeting

Note of the last meeting was approved.

Matters arising

- The installation of the phone in the Community Hall was on hold.
- Disposal units for camper vans – AM had not yet followed up on costings.
- The proposed Information Bulletin in respect of the Druim Leathann development had not been produced. It was noted that Forsa would be presenting another round of public exhibitions for the Druim Leathann windfarm project in Tolsta on 27 March 2018.
- The Comunn Eachdraidh had asked for a letter of support from the Community Council. AM would draft a letter.

2. Accounts/Bank Balance

The balance was £9,053.66 as at 11 January 2018.

3. Appointment of Treasurer

AMK had indicated that she would be resigning as Treasurer due to work commitments. AM would draft a short advertisement for the PO Notice Board asking for expressions of interest in the post.

4. Community Hall

The explanation given by the electricians regarding the problem with the heaters - extremes of temperature and condensation - was not convincing. The temperature loggers to assess temperatures in the Community Hall for a trial period were unavailable so this had not been done. AM would follow up with CM at the Comhairle (both the ongoing problem with the heaters and the minor works required in the meeting room to allow easier access to the switch for the heaters).

5. Football Pitch/ PACT

David at Total Design would forward drawings for the football pitch before the next meeting (to be forwarded separately).

JM and AM would arrange a suitable date to change the banking details for PACT.

6. Tràigh Mhòr Footpath

AMK and Sons would start the work fairly soon. The cost was thought to be c.£1.7k.

7. War Memorial

Due to the withdrawal of the first contractor, JM followed up with the second firm which was now unwilling to do the work.

The War Memorial Trust would hold the funding until further notice.

JM would follow-up various possibilities with Martin's Memorials to determine what could be done and at what price.

8. Play Parks Funding

About £13,400 was thought to be available for the Loch a Tuath Ward, with a view to giving an equal allocation to the three Community Councils in the order of c. £4,466. The existing play park at the school in Tolsta could benefit from this funding.

9. AOCB

The Locality Plan for Stornoway and Broadbay was currently being drafted.

A Community Council event would be held shortly to determine interest in an Association of Community Councils, with the probability of four meetings per year. FM would attend the first one of these and we could take it from there.

Concern had been raised about the future of Tolsta School given a declining roll, 29 pupils currently which would reduce to 24. The school had 50 pupils some six years ago. It was agreed to write to Bernard Chisholm, Comhairle's Director of Education and Children's Services, asking him to a meeting of the Tolsta Parent Council and the Community Council, at the next meeting or at some other mutually convenient time. The agenda would be the protection of rural schools and GME provision (Tolsta School being one of the few, if only, schools in the Western Isles without GME provision). AM would follow up with a letter to the Director.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday, 15 May 2018 at 7pm.