

Benbecula Community Council

Minute of Meeting held on Thursday 17th May 2018 at 6.00pm at

Tagsa Uibhist Office, East Camp, Balivanich

1. Welcome and Present:

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

CnES: Councillor Iain MacLeod

Public: Angus Doyle

Police: Not present (on active duty)

2. Apologies:

C'Ilors Iain MacNeil, Uisdean Robertson, Roddy MacKay

3. Minutes of Meeting of 15th February

Agreed at AGM held on 19th April

4. Matters Arising:

Play Parks ... C'Ilor MacKay is Comhairle contact. The Comhairle will remove old or damaged equipment if requested. No approach made for Ward or Community Council funding.

Traffic Management ... White lining in process of being completed, but "SLOW" markings on roads still requires action (eg at Nunton). Hugh referred to dangerous corner at Stinky Bay, requiring signage and road marking. Clerk to invite Angus MacDonald, Comhairle, to future meeting.

Donation of Public Seating Bench, Balivanich ... Gail in contact with Planning Officer, CnES. Proposal is to have donated bench on grassed area in front of Balivanich School.

Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band.... Thank you postcards received for donation from BCC. Members acknowledged success of Tartan Day Parade, New York, and efforts of all Band Members, Dancers, and helpers. A massive undertaking, with our Islands' Pipe Band featuring across the globe, as performances beamed world wide.

Community Workshop, Market Stance ... the Comhairle to proceed with public sale of this building, now in need of repair. BCC has communicated its decision to the Comhairle of "no interest" in taking over the Workshop.

Oil Tanks, Lochcarnan ... C'Ilor MacLeod has received a number of complaints about lack of capacity to respond to demand, but reminded meeting that this facility is operated by private business. He is liaising with operator on these concerns.

Vandalism, Balivanich... Angus referred to recent concerns about broken windows in private and HHP residences. It is known the police are following up with line of enquiry.

5. Treasurer Report:

Murdina referred to "Balance" presently standing at £8,546.82, as previously reported. A cheque for £500 to Uist Foodbank still to be lodged. Accounts have been Audited, and returned to Clerk, now with Treasurer. The Comhairle contribution of £1000 to Benbecula Community Council follows successful audit. Murdina will pay BCC Grant to Youth Café, and Rent of Office and expenses to Tagsa Uibhist.

6. Correspondence:

(i) Letter received confirming successful Audit of BCC Accounts.

(ii) Notification received of formation of Association of Community Councils in Lewis area.

(iii) Ferries, Uig, Tarbert, Lochmaddy – Major works to be undertaken at Uig terminal, with views sought on optional closure dates. After detailed discussion about pros and cons, and taking vote, Option 1 Preference was choice (Closure 12th April to 24th May 2020), and Clerk will communicate this decision to Iain Mackinnon, CnES Director of Technical Services, by deadline of 25th May.

Background from Mr MacKinnon email:

It is currently planned that the replacement works will be undertaken in 2020 and take an estimated six weeks. During this time it will not be possible to provide vehicular ferry services from Uig to North Uist and Harris. The final decision on the scheduling of the works will be taken by Transport Scotland; Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, as the local authority serving those communities most affected by such a closure, wish to consult with key local stakeholders such as you, to enable it to make an informed decision regarding its preference.

I would be obliged if you would let me know your preference between Option 1 (Closure period of 12 April to 24 May 2020) and Option 2 (Closure period of mid-October to end November 2020) by post or by email by Friday 25 May 2018.

(iv) CalMac Summer Timetables. Gail is seeking views from Members about next summer timetable, based on last years' t/table. She would like views, in particular about

- Early morning sailing from Lochmaddy
- Need for two ferries operating on these crossings: Uig/Tarbert and Uig/Lochmaddy
- Need for bespoke Cargo vessel, as MV Clipper Ranger

Gail will require comments by email, with supporting evidence, by end of next week.

(v) Disruptions to ferry sailings (MV Clansman Dry Dock). C'Illoir MacLeod referred to imminent Press Release from Uist Councillors on this subject. Main disruption will entail cancellation of crossings on the Lochboisdale/Mallaig sailings. Councillors in contact with CalMac Managing Director Robbie Drummond on a regular basis. Gail stated the need for a Meeting of the Uists Association of Community Councils to discuss and issue Press Release.

7. Police Report:

No attendance from local Police. No issues raised by councillors (vandalism in Balivanich discussed earlier).

8. Ward Funding:

Requests as follows discussed, and agreed:

- Tagsa Uibhist, Carers' Week events. Agreed grant of £200
- Balivanich Primary School, PTA, pupils outing to Skye. Agreed grant of £500

9. Members' Report:

- Active Travel strategy. Public Participation event being planned.
- Roads Maintenance. Surface dressing only proceeding. Comment from member that traffic cones still in situ from last year.
- Build a Better Balivanich. C'Ilor Roddy MacKay has detail from earlier surveys, and will liaise with newly appointed consultants undertaking new review of community needs.
- Disabled parking, Co-op Creagorry. Enforcement order requiring work on designated parking for disabled to be undertaken.
- Single Island Authority. Integration of Island public service agencies (especially NHSWI and the Comhairle), being explored, detail awaited (Comhairle CEO Malcolm Burr speaking on this subject at UCVO Volunteer Network Meeting on 7th June, 12.00 – 2.00pm).

10. Other Competent Business:

Dog "poo" Balivanich. Concerns and complaints being raised once again. Enforcement is responsibility of Environmental health. Suggestion that EHO Ms Murray be invited to future meeting of BCC. Recommended that signage and disposal bins should be located in affected areas.

Speeding Nunton and Balivanich. Previous article in Am Paipear helped, but the effect has diminished over time. Clerk to suggest Editor cover this issue once again, and to discuss again with police at next meeting of BCC.

Disability Access Panel. No meeting since dissolution of previous Panel about five years' ago. New Panel being formed, meeting at UCVO Office on Tuesday 19th June at 10.00am of all interested parties.

Old Primary School Balivanich, grass cutting and Old Bakery Building. After discussion, C'Ilor MacLeod agreed to discuss respective issues and concerns with Comhairle Directors/Officers.

Roads Maintenance and White Lining. Clerk to invite Comhairle Officer Angus MacDonald to future meeting of BCC.

11. Dates of Future Meetings:

Thursday 21st June and Thursday 23rd August, both meetings to be held at Tagsa Uibhist Offices, East Camp, Balivanich, commencing at 6.00pm

Andrew Walker

Clerk, Benbecula Community Council