

Benbecula Community Council

Minute of Meeting held on Thursday 5th July 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 (from 6.30pm), Linda MacDonald, Vice Chair

CnES: Councillor Iain MacLeod

Public (Liniclate Petitioners): Fiona Buchanan, Nairn Galbraith, Fiona Beaton, Hugh Edwards, Duncan Rowe, Alasdair MacDonald

Police: Not present

2. Apologies:

C'Ilors Iain MacNeil, Uisdean Robertson, Roddy MacKay

3. Minutes of Meeting of 17th May

Approved Murdina, seconded by Gail.

Chair proposed, approved by all, that Meeting moves to Agenda item 6.3, to accommodate attendance of petitioners.

6.3 Liniclate Residents Petition and Letters: Speed Limit Extension B892 (40mph)

Background and discussion. Historic concerns have been again referred to Benbecula Community Council, supported by the following:

- i. Signed petition from residents with 38 signatures;
- ii. Supported by 8 local businesses;
- iii. Letters in support from Creagorry Vet Practice, Headmaster Sgoil Lionacleit, and Dark Island Hotel
- iv. Supporting report with reference to "Walking and cycling safety", "Entering and leaving homes", "Pedestrians crossing the road", "RAC statistics", "Comhairle home to school transport policy – pupils to walk if resident within three miles of secondary school", "Scottish Government "Safer Routes to School policy", with funding of £5.5m".

A detailed and informative discussion followed, with reference to incidence of accidents noted but not all reported to Police, speeding by "boy racers" between Creagorry Co-op and DI Hotel driving in tandem (Friday nights and weekends), overtaking at dangerous corner, difficulty with monitoring and enforcement by police (visibility, police presence notified on social media sites), monitoring of traffic flow by the Comhairle hampered by faulty equipment.

The Chair informed the meeting that of all responses received by BCC by email, 8 were in support of extending speed limit, and 4 against. Responses had been requested on the Benbecula Community Council Facebook page.

Councillor Macleod referred to earlier meeting and site visit he has attended with Director of Technical Services Iain Mackinnon, Comhairle Officer Angus MacDonald and resident petitioner Fiona Buchanan. It was explained that with no less than 75 speed restriction applications presently being considered by the Comhairle, a system of prioritisation requires to be considered, with each agreement to proceed with speed limits costing on average £5,000. The Clerk referred to the statutory powers contained in the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and process of public consultation which is required following any proposal by the Comhairle to introduce a Speed Limit. The Comhairle encouraged the petitioners to again seek the views of the Community Council before taking the request to Committee.

The Chair concluded this topic by requesting a vote either for or against the request of the petitioners that a 40mph Speed Limit be recommended to the Comhairle on the B892 continuing from end of existing limit at Sgoil Lionacleit until 30mph Limit at Creagorry Co-op. This was unanimously supported, with no abstentions. **The Chair/Clerk will write in these terms to the Director of Technical Services Iain Mackinnon, with copies to CEO Malcolm Burr and Chair of Transport and Infrastructure Committee, Councillor Uisdean Robertson.**

(The Petitioners representatives left the meeting at this juncture.)

4. Matters Arising from Minutes of 17th May Meeting

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, or Challenge Fund, despite expressing an interest.

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.

Oil Tanks, Lochcarnan ... C'Ilor MacLeod is liaising with supplier re any issues of concern raised by customers.

Balivanich Regeneration ... Public Consultation has been held, Balivanich Hall. Report awaited.

Disability Parking Creagorry Co-op ... Road marking now in place. Noted that meetings have recently been held at UCVO to reconstitute a Disability Access Panel. Further meeting in August to constitute a local panel (Clerk to notify).

Grass cutting Old Primary School Meeting informed that this building has now been sold.

Derelict Old Bakery, Balivanich ... concerns expressed about asbestos and danger to public. **Chair to write to owner of building.**

5. Treasurer Report:

Bank balance stands at £6226.46 as at 31st May. Successful audit resulted in annual credit of £1000 from the Comhairle. Grant to Youth Café still to pay, awaiting YC opening bank account.

6. Correspondence:

6.1 Grass cutting of verges cannot proceed because of Health and Safety concerns, and police issues regarding road safety.

6.2 Comhairle Challenge Fund. No applications received. Deadline for submission is 7th August. Any late applications can be considered by Chair, Treasurer and Clerk.

6.4 Planning Applications. Relevant applications since last meeting circulated to all members. One application was discussed, and concerns raised. This relates to siting of residential caravan at Riding School, East Camp (Planning reference 18/00241/PPD), made by Uist Community Riding School.

The Chair was vacated by Gail (conflict of interest), and Vice Chair Linda MacDonald took over. Issues discussed related to location of caravan at Riding School, near to horse manure dump and vermin, issues about connection to utilities, and importantly East Camp as a Commercial Centre, with transport business operating around the clock. **Agreed that Clerk communicate these concerns to local Planning Dept. of the Comhairle.**

6.5 Appointment to CalMac Community Board. Item deferred to next meeting, interviews not yet held.

6.6 Police Scotland, Appointment of Area Commander, Ian Graham, Chief Inspector, Western Isles Area Command. Clerk referred to this appointment, wef 28th June.

6.7 HM Lord-Lieutenant for the Western Isles: Community Engagement. Letter received from Lord-Lieutenant Donald Martin, requesting meeting with Community Councils, to raise awareness of his role. **Agreed Clerk write to Chair of the Association of Community Councils, Uist and Barra, suggesting L-L Martin be invited to next meeting of the Association.**

6.8 CalMac Summer Timetables, 2019. Gail received no responses to this item as raised at previous meeting. Deadline for responses has now passed.

7. Police Report:

No attendance from local Police. No issues raised by councillors, although disappointing no presence earlier when Speeding Petition was discussed.

8. Ward Funding:

Requests as follows discussed, and agreed:

- Uist Community Riding School, with Application to BCC to fund purchase of Riding helmets. **Award of £500 agreed, Treasurer to action.** This is not Councillors Ward funding, but BCC funded.

9. Members' Report:

Councillor Iain Macleod reported as follows:

- i. Active Travel strategy. Public Participation event has taken place, Iain met with research assistant at Creagorry Co-op where he was meeting with public.
- ii. Single Island Authority. Integration of Island public service agencies (especially NHSWI and the Comhairle), being explored, detail awaited (Comhairle CEO Malcolm Burr spoke on this subject at UCVO Volunteer Network Meeting on 7th June).
- iii. Spaceport, Scalpay. Still being actively taken forward with commercial enterprises involved.
- iv. HIAL Remote Air Traffic Control proposals. Uist councillors issuing a Press Release, totally opposed. This is considered to be a long-term objective, but future losses of Island-based posts of major concern.

- v. School transport policy for pupils being monitored by the Comhairle as implementation lacks uniformity across islands.
- vi. CalMac post of Community Resources Manager can be Island-based post.
- vii. Uist Economic Taskforce: no recent meeting.
- viii. Restructuring of Comhairle departmental structures and Directorships under review.
- ix. Comhairle Budgets. The Comhairle has experienced cuts of no less than 18% since 2010, one of the highest percentage cuts in Scotland, pro rata. This has resulted in a significant loss of employees, but policy of no compulsory redundancies remains in place. Vital statutory services are being maintained, but the overall impact is worrying, as the austerity agenda continues.
- x. Broadband. Installations proceeding apace, with fibre links to properties in Grimsay, Liniclate and Uachdar areas, and cabinets for Hacklet area next year.

10. Other Competent Business:

No AOCB item raised.

11. Dates of Future Meeting:

Thursday 23rd August, **since changed to Thursday 6th September at 6.00pm, meeting venue changed to BOARD ROOM, UCVO OFFICE, 41 Airport Road, Balivanich.**

Andrew Walker

Clerk, Benbecula Community Council

06/08/2018