

# **Benbecula Community Council**

**Minute of Meeting held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 6.00pm at**

**UCVO Board Room, 41 Airport Road, Balivanich**

## **1. Welcome and Present:**

Councillors: Gail Robertson (Chair), Andrew Walker (Clerk), Linda MacDonald (Vice Chair)

CnES: Councillor Roddy MacKay

Public: Izabela Doyle

Police: Not present

## **2. Apologies:**

C'illors Iain MacNeil, Uisdean Robertson, Iain Macleod

Murdina Naylor, Hugh MacCormick

Other: Cheryl Poole, Fiona Buchanan

## **3. Minutes of Meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> July:**

Approved Linda, seconded by Gail.

## **4. Matters Arising from Minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> July Meeting:**

**Donation, Seating Bench:** Gail continues to liaise with family and Planning Dept.

**Balivanich Regeneration:** public meeting scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> September.

**Old Bakery:** Gail in discussion with owner of land/property, Bill Hogg.

**Youth Café:** BCC Grant now paid into their bank account, recently opened.

**Planning Application, Caravan, East Camp:** Clerk informed by planning Dept that application withdrawn.

**Lord Lieutenant:** email to chair of the Association of Community Councils. Reminder sent by Clerk.

**Play Parks:** C'llor MacKay is Comhairle contact. The Comhairle will remove old or damaged equipment if requested.

Izabela Doyle updated BCC on Balivanich PlayPark developments after recent AGM. Over £60k has been raised by this committee to date, and fundraising continues to purchase more equipment and consider work required to reinstate football pitch, estimates likely to be in region of £100k. PlayPark Committee also planning to have Xmas tree and lights for Xmas display.

The Chair thanked Izabela and PlayPark Committee for all their efforts and achievements to date.

**Grass cutting Old Primary School:** Meeting informed that this building has now been sold. Hugh informed the clerk that not safe to use machinery in this area. Cutting grass verges in public roads

discussed. Gail has discussed this with local police (safety, signage, vulnerable areas at road junctions), and awaiting a response.

## **5. Treasurer Report:**

Treasurer absent from meeting (Stornoway), no report. Little change from previous meeting:

Bank balance stands at £6226.46 as at 31<sup>st</sup> May. Successful audit resulted in annual credit of £1000 from the Comhairle. Grant to Youth Café now paid.

## **6. Correspondence (Clerk):**

### **6:1 Balivanich Road Safety, Petition.**

Cheryl Poole active in this matter, and apologised for absence, due to work commitment.

C'Ilor Roddy MacKay presented Petition with 147 signatures, mostly local, requesting Zebra Crossing on main road entering Balivanich at the BnC/Tindill Rd crossing, used by school children and public. C'Ilor MacKay has already discussed with Technical Services Calum MacKenzie and will deliver Petition to Director, Iain MacKinnon next week.

Additional road safety concerns were discussed, many already referred to Technical Services: Smiley Face signage, White lining Nunton on approach road "SLOW", illegal car parking Tindill Road, footpaths Nunton and Balivanich to East Camp, bus shelter East Camp, street lighting to extend to East Camp.

**AGREED: Clerk to write to Director of Technical Services itemising all these issues, many of historic concern, already raised by Benbecula Community Council. C'Ilor MacKay will present Petition to Director next week. Copy of Petition with Chair.**

### **6:2 Community Board, CalMac**

Gail is now a member of this Board, and reported on recent meeting she attended in Mallaig, as follows:

Meeting with David MacBrayne Board proposed and agreed.

As no record can be kept of missed or potential bookings to establish demand yet we asked when the booking system would be upgraded. We were told that this would not be up and running until 2020 at the earliest.

Record keeping of bookings requested but still no record kept of missed or potential bookings. This data will be kept in future, but not until 2020!

Easter disruption to sailings. Report from CalMac still awaited.

Notices on ferries of Board membership ... often these are covered up by other material. This to be rectified. New notices to be put up on vessels and at port offices with new Board Members details on. These will be sent out asap and Calmac Staff to be informed as to the Community Boards remit so that they can work with the Board and Customers going forward.

Chair of Board, Angus Campbell has requested meeting with Islands' Minister, Paul Wheelhouse MSP

Ferries 10 Year Plan .... Need to ensure 5/10 Year Plan discussed and commitment of investment agreed with Scottish Government.

Public consultation on Pier Infrastructure proposals .... Public Meeting at Lochmaddy planned.

Ferries Users' Group expressed concerns that "operational issues" not being addressed by CalMac... the Community Board was not established to deal with operational matters.

Next Meeting of CalMac Community Board is in Glasgow on 16<sup>th</sup> November. Minutes of these meetings can be accessed online.

**Agreed: Clerk to write to Islands' Minister and Transport and Infrastructure Minister on Ferry concerns, including recent disruptions on Skye Triangular sailing route and also Lochboisdale/Mallaig Easter cancellations, and delay in new ferry delivery date.**

#### **6:3 Police Scotland Focus Group Meeting.**

Meeting cancelled, training staff plane cancelled. Awaiting rearranged date.

#### **6:4 Benbecula Flag**

Correspondence from Donnie Steele and Philip Tibbetts previously circulated by Clerk. Philip's details are as follows:

Philip Tibbetts Esq OJ MA (St And) FSAScot APMP

Honorary Vexillologist, Court of the Lord Lyon

Advisor, Parliamentary Flags & Heraldry Committee

Communities Vexillologist, Flag Institute

A mock-up of proposed flag prepared by Philip was shown, but not well liked ... too much black! Agreed that Benbecula Community Council should seek views of school pupils, Youth Café and other community groups. Philip has offered to attend future meeting of BCC, and this was agreed, Gail to discuss with Headteachers, suggesting "competition", and write to Philip expressing our interest in taking forward his offer.

Cost to Register with Court of the Lord Lyon is £1000, but £350 is later refunded.

#### **6:5 Walk Leader Training**

Catriona Garbutt and Alex. MacPhee have expressed an interest and participated in training.

#### **6:6 Harvesting of Kelp**

Details of proposals circulated by Clerk prior to meeting.

**Agreed: Clerk write to Planning Dept expressing strong objections to these proposals on grounds of environmental and ecology considerations.**

#### **6:7 Griminish War Memorial, Wreath laying receptacles**

Communication from C'llor MacLeod refers to this item. Some basic work required to maintain wreaths in situ during adverse weather. Clerk informed the Meeting that Hugh MacCormick kindly agreed to accept responsibility for this matter, and will contact others as appropriate.

### **7. Police Report**

No attendance at this meeting. No issues noted, other than as at 6:1 above.

## **8. Ward Fund**

Two applications discussed and agreed as follows:

### **8:1 Amie Ringstead, Girls' Basketball Team, Inverness Lions**

Help requested for cost of travel and accommodation for minimum of 17 trips to Inverness, total cost of £4000-£6000. Grant of £1500 from Sport Scotland. Additional details on Application.

**Agreed £500 from Benbecula Community Council. Also, C'llor Roddy MacKay to consider Ward contribution with two other councillors. Gail to inform family. Any councillor contribution should be paid via BCC account.**

### **8:2 Adam Keltie on behalf of Cuimhne Armchair Athletics.**

This is to support school pupils travelling to residential care homes to engage with activities with care home residents, programme already established. Basic cost of transport to be met.

**Agreed £250 from BCC and C'llor Roddy MacKay to pursue £250 from each of Ward 2 Councillors.**

## **9. Comhairle Members' Report**

As no Committee Meetings since last BCC Meeting, nothing to report. Comhairle series of next Committee meetings commence 28<sup>th</sup> September.

## **10. AOCB**

### **10:1 Scrap cars UCVO Car Park.**

A number of cars left here and deteriorating, becoming an eyesore. C'llor MacKay will follow up with UCVO Manager Sheena Stewart about help with removal.

### **10:2 West Camp, donation of Porta Cabin Container.**

Agreed to place notice inviting expressions of interest on BCC Facebook page. Clerk has more details, and MOD/Qinetiq contact person for viewing. Early decision required, so details of interested parties will be communicated via Messenger to members, for a decision. At least three interested parties known to members, to date.

### **10:3 Co-option of Councillor**

Andrew Walker thanked Izabela Doyle for her attendance, and suggested she consider being co-opted as a Councillor. This was discussed, and with Izabela's agreement, she was proposed as a co-opted Councillor by Gail and this was seconded by Linda. The clerk will notify the Comhairle.

### **10:4 Date of next Meeting**

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October, 6.00pm to be held at UCVO premises, 41 Airport Road, Balivanich**

Andrew Walker

Clerk (8<sup>th</sup> October 2018)

