

## ***Ness Community Council***

**Minutes 16.04.2018**

**Lionel School 7.30pm**

---

**Present:** Mrs K M MacKenzie (Chair) Mr D Macleod (Treasurer/ Clerk) Mr P Inger Mrs J Hawkett  
Cllr J MacKay

**In Attendance:** Mary C Campbell (Public) Rena McCritchie (Public) Mr Angus Morrison (Public) Mr  
Colin Morrison (Public)

### **Welcome**

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting

**Apologies:** Cllr J N MacLeod, Cllr K MacLeod

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved

Proposed: Jean Hawkett

Seconded: Peter Inger

### **Matters Arising:**

1. Health and Social Care: (to be carried forward to next meeting)

2. Ness Sign: The Chair has now spoken to James Leitch and he will take this forward.

3. Scrap Cars: To date 40 vehicles have been identified for this project, two funding applications have been submitted to help with the costs (total cost for removal to Muir of Ord £10,000). All being well it is hoped to start in mid May of this year.

4. Tourism: Having carried out a vast amount of research on this subject Jean gave a presentation regarding the project proposals that NCC would be presenting to CNES for inclusion in their bid to the tourism fund announced by the Scottish Government. Allied to this Donnie is to attend a meeting with the UOG Tourism sub Committee on 18.04.2018, in the hope that a joint proposal may have more clout. The deadline for submissions is 27.04.2018.

5. Community Council's Forum: A proposal has been put forward by CNES for the establishment of a CC Forum. Donnie attended a meeting with other CC's, organised by CNES to discuss the possibility, (please see attached documents). The next meeting is planned for 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018.

6. Roads: A very lively debate took place regarding this subject, involving all present including members of the public. It was pointed out that the present state of the roads in Ness was disgraceful, due in no small part to the failure of CNES to maintain and invest in the roads infrastructure. It was agreed that the CC would contact Alasdair Allan and also write a letter to the transport Minister Humza Yousaf and invite him to visit Ness and see for himself the state of the roads. (See attached).

**Police matters:**

There was no police presence at the meeting.

**A.O.C.B:**

Two Members of the public present at the meeting, (Mary C Campbell and Rena McCritchie) raised concerns regarding the peat road/track at the end of Skigersta high street. In particular the condition of the road/track was of concern and that it was no longer suitable for vehicles to use, thus making it very difficult for those who still cut peat to get to and from their banks. They pointed out that a major maintenance was required to bring the road/track up to a suitable standard, the sum of £20,000 was quoted to them when they inquired.

A possible solution suggested would be to meet with UOG and Grazing Committee's to see if a solution could be found. Cllr MacKay mentioned that there may be some funding available from Councillors.

**D.O.N.M:**

Monday 21.05.2018 – 7.30pm Lionel School.



## **COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR**

Sandwick Road, Stornoway, HS1 2BW

Rathad Shannabhagh, Seornabhagh, HS1 2BW

telephone	: 0845 600 7090 Ext 211220
direct line	: 01851-822613
e-mail	: dmackay@cne-siar.gov.uk
fax	: 01851-705349
writer	: Derek Mackay
our reference	: DY/YM
your reference	:
date	: 19 October 2017

A' Charaid Chòir

### **ESTABLISHMENT OF FORUM**

The Comhairle is looking to discuss the potential interest in establishing a Forum for Community Councils in Lewis to allow experiences to be shared and common issues discussed. We are provisionally looking at week commencing 13 November for a meeting to discuss the proposals and the Community Council is invited to send up to two representatives. Part of the discussion will cover the proposed Lewis Ferry Transport Forum and further details are outlined below. While it would be impractical to have each Community Council represented on the Transport Forum it could be an option to have a number of representatives from a Community Council Forum (possibly on a geographic basis).

The Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services (CHFS) Contract requires the operator to take part in consultation meetings and community liaison with representatives of service users. In addition to establishing the post of Director of Community and Stakeholder Engagement and appointing Brian Fulton to the post in October 2016, and establishing a Community Board, chaired by Stornoway businessman, Angus Campbell, the process includes the continuation of the Ferry Users Groups (facilitated by HITRANS; to be renamed Ferry Stakeholder Groups) and the establishment of local area ferry committees or forums, the outline of which is detailed below.

It is intended that local area ferry committees/forums would be the first line of consultation between the island and peninsular community user representatives and CalMac Ferries Ltd as the CHFS Operator. These will be focused on operational issues of concern to the individual communities served by a route or group of routes, which should be capable of being resolved without requiring changes to the Operator's contract or having any impact on another community. Any proposed changes to contract would require escalation to the CHFS Contract Manager, who will then liaise with Transport Scotland.

Issues to be discussed at the committee meetings will include requests for any timetable changes or amendments relating to integration with other forms of transport, facilities on board or ashore, service performance and information services for users.

# **LEWIS ASSOCIATION OF COUMMUNITY COUNCILS**

## **Constitution**

### **1. Name**

The full name of the organisation shall be The Lewis Association of Community Councils, hereafter referred to as “the Association”.

### **2. Membership**

All Community Councils within Lewis shall be members of the Association.

### **3. Aims and Objectives**

In addition to any other purpose that the Association may choose to pursue, the general purpose of the Association shall be:

- a) to ascertain the views of its member Community Councils on all issues which concern them, to provide a forum for discussion of these views and to communicate them to local and central government, other public and private bodies and to the general public;
- b) to act as a lobbying body in respect of any areas of common interest which it has identified;
- c) to facilitate the flow of information between Community Councils and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar; and
- d) to provide assistance to Community Councils throughout its area.

### **4. Representation**

The membership of the Association shall form a committee. Each Community Council on the Association will be eligible to appoint one representative to the Association committee. Said representative must be a member of the nominating Community Council.

Representatives shall serve on the committee for the term of the Community Council unless a Community Council shall choose to amend its nomination on giving one month's notice. In the event of a representative being unable to attend a meeting of the Association the Community Council represented may nominate another of its members to attend that meeting.

### **5. Resignation**

A Community Council may resign from the Association at any time by giving written notice to the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

### **6. Office Holders**

At its first meeting the Association shall select one of its members to serve as Chairperson and one of its members to serve as Vice-Chairperson. The Chairperson

shall chair any meeting of the Association at which he or she is present. The Vice-Chairperson shall deputise in the Chairperson's absence. In the event of both the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson being absent from a meeting the Association committee shall select one its number to chair that meeting.

The office holders shall serve for a period of one year and, provided they continue to be members of the Association committee, shall be eligible for reselection to their posts.

## **7. OHCPP**

The Association may nominate one of its representatives to be a member of the Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership.

## **8. Meetings**

The Association shall meet quarterly, with additional meetings as required. Upon a written request to the Chairperson, received from not less than one half of the membership of the Association, a Special Meeting of the Association shall be called.

The quorum for meetings of the Association shall be 5 members.

## **9. Voting**

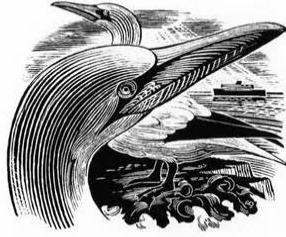
Whenever a meeting of the Association chooses to reach a decision by conducting a poll of its members, each representative shall have a single vote. The Chairperson shall have a casting vote if required.

## **10. Standing Orders**

The Association may choose to adopt standing orders in order to regulate the conduct of its business.

## **11. Constitutional Amendments**

The Association shall adopt this constitution at its inaugural meeting. The Constitution can only be altered at an Annual or Emergency General Meeting convened for that purpose. Notice of any wording of a proposed amendment must be sent to the Secretary and circulated to all member Community Councils at least 14 days prior to the meeting. Two thirds of eligible votes shall be required for approval.



**Ness Community Council**

**Donald MacLeod**  
**Clerk/Treasurer**  
**Ness Community Council**  
**c/o 4 Edgemoor Square**  
**Lionel, Port of Ness**  
**Isle of Lewis**  
**HS2 0TJ**  
**Tel: 01851 810443**  
**Email: [donnie.26@live.co.uk](mailto:donnie.26@live.co.uk)**

**Mr Humza Yousaf MSP**  
**Minister for Transport and the Islands**

**Date: 24.04.2018**

**ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE NESS ISLE OF LEWIS (MAIN SPINAL ROUTE BUTT TO BARRA)**

Dear Mr Yousaf,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Ness Community Council regarding what we feel is the unacceptable and somewhat dangerous condition of the road infrastructure (and part of the main spinal route. Butt to Barra), in the Ness area of Lewis. Over the years and in some cases dating as far back as 1998, representations have been made to CNES, MP's, MSP's, Public Petitions Committee and most recently to our Elected Councillors, although initially the issue was first raised as far back as the late 1970's, and so far it seems to have fallen on deaf ears.

The Community Council feels that the obvious lack of investment over the years by CNES, has now rendered some parts of this route as unacceptable and dangerous to all who use it. Over the last five years alone the number of visitors from all over the world, has increased dramatically (which is mirrored in the rest of Scotland). The Butt of Lewis, which is the area most visited in Ness and the second most visited site in Lewis, reportedly had 10,000 visitors in 2017, (it is on the Main Spinal route and the Hebridean way cycle route). Already this year (as early as March) we have had Tour Coaches, Campervans and Cyclists using the route.


Parts of this route suffer from the following: Crumbling and cracking of the road surface (across the whole width of the road) on the main A857, vast numbers of potholes, no pavement or footpath, narrow single track roads with no or inadequate passing places, no warning signs (Single Track Road) to name but a few. As I mentioned above this is part of the Main Spinal route and the Hebridean Way cycle route, it is used by tour operators and is essential to their itinerary, also campervans, cyclists, motor cyclists and walkers who all visit during the summer season and as mentioned above the numbers are increasing annually. All this adds to the continued deterioration of the road infrastructure.

From 7am onwards there is a constant stream of traffic on this stretch of road, given that the majority of the working population have no option but to travel to Stornoway. This does not include the number of local workers who constantly use the road on a daily basis, i.e. Health workers, Care Workers, Teachers, Crofters, Self Employed Contractors, Children cycling/ walking to school, to name but a few.

In conclusion the Ness Community Council feels that Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has failed in it's obligation to maintain the Main Spinal Route through Ness in a safe and acceptable condition, and we urge you to give this matter some urgent consideration. The Community Council would like to extend an invitation to you to visit Ness and meet with us and members of the Community, so that we can better explain and show you what our concerns are.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Kind regards,



Donald MacLeod  
Clerk/Treasurer  
For and on behalf of  
Ness Community Council.