



Ness Community Council

Minutes 19.11.2018

Lionel School 7.30pm

Present: Katie M MacKenzie (Chair) D MacLeod (Treasurer/ Clerk) Peter Inger, Jean Hawkett

In Attendance: Cllr j MacKay, Cllr K MacLeod

Welcome: The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting

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

Minutes of previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Proposed by: Mr D MacLeod

Seconded by: K M MacKenzie

Matters Arising:

1. Health and Social Care: The meeting scheduled to take place at Ravenspoint on the 17th September was cancelled. Still awaiting rescheduled date.

2. Ness Sign: Still awaiting to hear from James Leitch, may need to revisit the site and update estimate. Chair to carry this forward.

3. Scrap Cars: The first round has now been completed, 20 vehicles have been collected and removed to the mainland. The CC would like to thank UOG for their financial contribution to the project and to Danda and the young lads from the Community who did all the hard graft. Thank you all. It is hoped to carry out a second round at some point in the New Year.

4. Tourism: Jean issued all present with her report. (see attached)

5. Gunnera: The Chair has been in contact with the North Harris Trust, who will send out information regarding the problem, the Chair has identified certain areas in Ness which contain Gunnera.

6. Roads: Cllr's MacKay and MacLeod stated that Ness had been identified as a priority. However it was noted that the markings on the Dell Moor road had been washed away.

Police Matters

There was no Police presence at the meeting.

A.O.C.B

E-mail received from Kenneth MacLeod RNLI regarding coastal safety and requesting a meeting. Treasurer to liaise and arrange. (see attached)
Donnie informed the meeting that they could now view and download the winter maintenance policy via the CNES website

D.O.N.M

Tuesday 11th December at 7.30pm in Lionel School.

Attachments to Minutes

TOURISM REPORT – OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2018

We have had a busy Tourist Season again this year and STILL we have complaints about the lack of infrastructure in Ness eg. poor condition of roads; lack of suitable parking areas; lack of scenic laybys; few coastal paths and poor access to those that do exist; cyclists; lack of public toilets; no dedicated and equipped camp sites; few places to stay or eat.
It is interesting to read, just about every week, the number of Planning Applications in the papers for holiday accommodation such as “camping pods”, motor-home facilities etc in the southern Isles of the Outer Hebrides. Many of our visitors drive up to the Butt of Lewis, turn round, and drive south to somewhere with the facilities they want.

Perhaps that’s how Ness wants it to be!

FERRIES remain a problem. Hopefully discussions will lead to improvements for everyone.

COACHES – more are scheduled to visit us next year.

LOGANAIR – reported a very busy summer which extended well into October.

TOURISM OUTER HEBRIDES 2020 PROJECT has been awarded more than £240,000 from the Rural Tourism Fund [part of the £6m. announced in 2017].

They claim that the project will develop an island-wide network of facilities and infrastructure to improve visitor experience.

The money is to be spent over 2 years [2018/19 and 2019/20] on parking, camping facilities, recycling points and footpath access.

CNES has also committed to spending up to £300,000 to develop tourism infrastructure.

The Travel Authority “**LONELY PLANET**” has revealed that the Highlands and Islands have been listed among its top 10 “Best in Travel” destinations for 2019.

Jean Hawkett.
NCC.

A FINE BALANCE

Keeping up with the Tourists.

The Challenge. We need to provide the infrastructure that they need without spoiling or destroying the spectacular natural environment that the visitors have come to see and, of course, the place where some of us have chosen to live.

The number of tourists has exploded throughout the world. Everyone seems to be "on the move" once holidays begin. It's also now a world of "selfie-tourists", and the natural features they want to be photographed with are under threat and need protection.

From ancient monuments to the world's greatest cities, and from areas of outstanding natural beauty to fragile eco-systems, they want it all.
But at what cost?

It's a fine balance and we in the Outer Hebrides need to get it right for the sake of our little bit of the planet.

Jean Hawkett.

Kenneth MacLeod <kennymmacleod@hotmail.com>

Mon 19/11/2018, 15:45

You

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Hi Donnie,

I wrote to you, and all the other Community Councils a number of months ago, in relation to identifying potentially dangerous areas around the coasts and explained a bit about how the RNLI are looking at the best ways to deal with these. One part of that is to draw up a Community Lifesaving Plan for the Western Isles, in consultation with community groups and local people.

Our aim is to assist local groups and organisations to take steps to address any areas identified as posing potential danger to those visiting our coasts. Concerns have been raised to us in relation to the area around the Butt of Lewis Lighthouse, and especially the cliff edge beside the road end.

I would very much welcome the opportunity to meet with you and the rest of the Community Council to see how we can best address these concerns and any others that you may have also identified.

If you could advise me of any proposed meeting dates I will look to arranging to attend. I work away for two weeks at a time so it may take a few weeks to find a mutually suitable date. Meantime, should you have any questions or wish more information please feel free to contact me, ether by email or on my mobile, 07711828801.

Looking forward to meeting you and working with your Community council on this.

Many thanks

Kenny MacLeod

RNLI Community Safety Officer – Western Isles

07711828801