

Benbecula Community Council

Minute of Meeting held on Thursday 11th October 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), Murdina Naylor (Treasurer), Hugh MacCormick, Izabela Doyle

CnES: Councillor Uisdean Robertson

Public: Cheryl Poole

Police: Not present

2. Apologies:

C'Ilors Iain MacNeil, Iain Macleod, Roddy MacKay

6. Balivanich Petition, Zebra Crossing (see item 6:1 from 6th September Meeting)

Cheryl Poole requested early discussion on this item c/f from last meeting, wishing an update of progress.

The Chair and Clerk informed the meeting that the Petition was delivered by C'llor MacKay to Director of Technical Services after last meeting. The "Traffic Regulation Protocols" will now be actioned by the Comhairle in consultation with Police Scotland. The Clerk has also written to the Comhairle Director and Police Area Commander. The petitioner was informed that no early decision should be anticipated. Cheryl was thanked for her attendance and left the meeting.

3. Minutes of Meeting of 6th September Meeting

Approved Linda, seconded by Gail, as amended. Clerk to forward to members, then copy to Belle Anne Scott at the Comhairle.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes of 6th September Meeting:

Hugh confirmed his willingness to undertake grass verge cutting, in season. Gail has discussed with local Police.

CalMac Community Board. Gail now a member of this Board. New updated booking system will be in place by 2020. Next meeting of Board is to be held on 22/23 November, meeting also with David MacBrayne Board. Any issues to be channeled through Gail.

Communication with Scottish Government Ministers (item 6:2 last meeting). This has been actioned by the Clerk, who apologised for introducing matters in his email not discussed on 6th September by councillors. Agreed future correspondence will be endorsed by Chair and/or Vice Chair, before sending. An acknowledgement of receipt of email has been received by the Clerk.

Balivanich Regeneration Meeting. A good turn out was noted, with constructive feedback.

Association of Community Council Meeting. C'llor Robertson will arrange invite to new Lord Lieutenant to discuss his role and also other agenda items, in particular Comhairle proposals on "Service Redesign", when he receives authority to circulate the 64 pages report to Community Councils.

Balivanich PlayPark/Portacabin. Izabela stated that her Committee are no longer interested in receiving this unit, donated to BCC by the MOD. The main reason is the size and problem in locating the unit at Balivanich Hall, this Committee not in agreement. Agreed that the Clerk will readvertise, and also seek permission to sell in open market, any proceeds to be for Community benefit, Benbecula.

Benbecula Flag. Gail is in discussion with Headteachers at local schools with intention of involving pupils in design competition. Details of the Communities Vexillologist 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

Philip will be invited to attend a future meeting of Benbecula Community Council to discuss further, and also to visit schools. Gail is liaising with all relevant parties on this matter. Members are in agreement that this is a worthwhile initiative. North Uist CC also considering design of a bespoke flag for their area. Details of future meeting with Philip to follow. (Cost to Register with Court of the Lord Lyon is £1000, but £350 is later refunded. Could this be met from income received from sale of Portacabin? Clerk.)

Mechanical Harvesting of Kelp. The clerk has written to Planning Dept with BCC views,, opposing any planning consents. (Scottish Parliament has since voted not to proceed, Clerk.)

Griminish War Memorial. Hugh has kindly agreed to respond to the request for upgrading the infrastructure at the War Memorial which is used to securely maintain the many wreaths which are laid here on Remembrance Sunday.

5. Treasurer Report:

Treasurer confirmed bank balance of £5976.46 as of 11th October. An amount of £750.00 credited to the account by the Comhairle (Ward Funding, Adam Keltie, Arm-Chair Athletics, Care Homes).

Murdina referred to rebate due from Tagsa Uibhist for rent of room, for BCC Meetings. Agreed that Chair would write to TU to request this refund of overpayment.

7. CalMac Board

Gail has attended her first meeting, and the Board meets again at beginning of November. Many operational problems have been well aired elsewhere, and Gail reminded us that this group is involved in policy and strategy issues, moving forward. (See Members' report, below.) Members were reminded to communicate views about Summer 2019 timetable of sailings to Gail ASAP.

8. Correspondence (Clerk):

Numerous emails have been received by the Clerk, and all copied to members, and also shared on the BCC email page. Some referred to here for particular attention:

Roll-out of Broadband; Scottish Ministers re Ferries; Technical Services re Road Traffic concerns; PhD Researcher on Wastewater survey; Benbecula Flag; Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee (Angus Campbell); Donation of Portacabin (numerous, from Mark Hammond, MOD).

9. Police Report:

No attendance. No issues raised.

10. Ward Funding:

Amie Ringstead, Basketball, Mainland (17 trips). Agreed grant of £500.00 to assist with travel and accommodation expenses, £200+ for each trip. Payment from Sports Scotland of £1500 received. Noted from last meeting decision:

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.

Sgoil Lionacleit Gardening Group. Pupils involved in ground preparation and planting of bulbs in dedicated area. Agree funding of £400. Clerk has confirmed payment, and received this reply:

On behalf of the Gardening Club I'd like to thank you for the very generous donation the Community Council made to our coffers. This will allow us to get cracking straight away building a bench and planters for what used to be the pond area, and turn it into a space where pupils can go to relax in pleasant surroundings and still get some much-needed fresh air. In time, and when the Club becomes more established, our aim is to adopt and brighten up all of the formal growing spaces in the school grounds and tie them in with the food growing activities in the polycrub and lean-to greenhouse.

Regards

Dick Troughton, Horticulture Gardener/Educator, Lionacleit School

11. Comhairle Members' Report

Councillor Robertson provided a detailed account of recent Comhairle Service Committee decisions, with particular focus on proposed future "Community Conversations" on "Service Redesign" suggestions. It is estimated that a sum in excess of £9.7m is required to be saved from the budget by 2022.

Other issues covered and discussed, include:

Single Island Authority; Spaceport, Scolpaig; HIAL Remote Air Control; Meeting with Transport Minister; Ferries "Clipper Ranger" Lewis, no progress; Ferry Summit 8/9 November with MSP and Minister; Lochmaddy Pier Infrastructure £16m; Mobile Library Vans; Transport C'ttee Budget Savings and Bus contracts (40 contractors); Uist Economic Taskforce; HHP Housebuilding programme; Electric Cars

12. AOCB

Water Supply and Bins, New Graveyard, Nunton. C'llor Robertson to enquire within the Comhairle.

Old Balivanich School. Gail attending future meeting to discuss proposed plans.

Mains Drains, Balivanich. Hugh has concerns about lack of maintenance, and flooding. Query if Committee overseeing this still exists. Mhari MacKenzie Storas Uibhist and Neil MacPherson Dept of Agriculture may be able to advise. C'Ilor Robertson to follow up.

Footpaths. Gail to invite Comhairle representative to future BCC meeting to discuss issues already raised by community councillors.

Fire Alarm, Sgoil Lionacleit. Hugh has issues about a particular incident in July, problem now rectified.

e-Sgoil Developments. Gail has requested meeting with parents to help raise awareness and be better informed about this teaching method. Meetings planned for 1st November at Sgoil Lionacleit.

12. Dates of Future Meetings:

Agreed to be held at UCVO Board Room, Airport Road, Balivanich, on

29th November; 17th January 2019 and 28th February 2019.

All meetings to commence at 6pm

Andrew Walker

Clerk (22 November 2018)