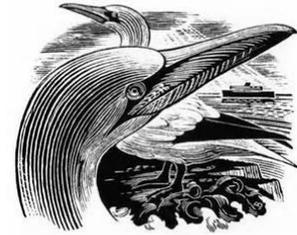


Ness Community Council



Minute of the meeting held on 25 February 2019 At 7.30pm in Lionel School

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| Present | Katie M Mackenzie (Chair) Jean Hawkett | Donnie Macleod (Treasurer) | |
| In Attendance | Cllr J N Macleod | Helen Mackenzie | |
| Apologies | Cllr K Macleod Peter Inger | Cllr J Mackay | Cllr K J Macleod |

Welcome

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting.

Minute of the meeting 11 December 2018

The minute of the meeting 11 December 2018 was approved:

Proposed by Donnie Macleod

Seconded by Katie Mackenzie

Matters arising

Health and Social Care

Donnie Macleod advised that the Locality Planning Group (LPG) meeting has been rescheduled and is now on 11 March 2019 in Carloway. Agenda items at the LPG in the past have included the potential development older people's care facilities in Lewis. At present the main focus has been Goathill, however options are being considered for the location of facilities in Barvas or Carloway. The final decision on location will be taken by the Integration Joint Board. It is unlikely that capital funding for the facility will be available in the current Comhairle term. The Community Council noted that Cllr K J Macleod is on the IJB.

It was agreed that Donnie will attend the LPG on behalf of the Community Council and report back at the next meeting.

Ness Sign

Katie Mackenzie advised that the plans for a new gateway sign are underway. The draft plans have been given to James Leech who will provide a proposal that it is hoped will be presented to the next meeting of the Community Council.

The old Gateway sign is being stored in the old fire station and could be restored and relocated if there was funding and agreement on a location.

It was agreed that Katie would organise the presentation of plans

Tourism

Jean Hawkett presented a report she had compiled for Tourism activity in January/February 2019. She advised that the positive developments, primarily in Stornoway mean that more people are coming to visit Ness. She warned that the district needs to improve the roads, signage, toilets and places to eat if we are to take full advantage of the benefits new visitors can bring.

The Community Council agreed that the priority should be the development of facilities at the Butt. Parking and facilities at the Butt are unsatisfactory and improvements should be made and following a site visit the RNLI were going to take the matter forward. Donnie Macleod advised that he had spoken to Lisa Maclean at Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn (UOG) but has not had feedback yet. Donnie advised that UOG were looking at a feasibility study. Donnie has also submitted Jean's proposal document to UOG.

It was agreed that Jean Hawkett would to contact UOG to check on progress with the Feasibility Study.

Jean advised that Rob Mackinnon has been appointed as the Chief Executive of Outer Hebrides Tourism.

It was agreed that Jean would invite him to visit Ness to see our facilities and meet with the Community Council.

The Community Council noted that new facilities are now open the Anchor self-catering facility in Lionel and The Uncles House in Five Penny. New facilities are also opening at the play park.

Clear signage is needed for the camper van toilet emptying facilities at Spòrs Nis. The Community Council noted that Simon Amos is starting as the new manager is starting at Spòrs Nis and noted that he would bring experience in business to the role.

Jean advised that there are a number of groups that have expressed an interest in using the Ness Hall. Donnie provided an update on his work to update the constitution and get a new committee in place to take forward tourism developments at the hall.

It was agreed that Donnie will provide an update at the next meeting.

The Community Council welcomed the progress being made in the Comunn Eachdraidh Nis and looked forward to the opening of the new facilities.

Gunnera

Katie Mackenzie advised that the West Harris Trust are leading on this issue. As this is a land management issue UOG are taking the lead locally.

Roads

Cllr Macleod advised that the works on the Dell Moor will take place this year. The Community Council raised road safety concerns about the junction in Lionel of the A857 and the B8015 turn off to Skigersta.

It was agreed that Cllr Macleod will speak to officers in the Assets and Infrastructure team at the Comhairle to see if they can visit the junction to review the safety issues.

Community Conversations

Donnie reported that the Comhairle has held community meetings to discuss future service delivery and a report detailing the outcomes has been issued. He advised that there are areas of similarity between Barvas and Ness in the outcomes from the meetings and some ideas raised that are particularly different.

It was agreed that Donnie would email the report to the Community Council members.

It was agreed that Donnie will contact Bernard Chisholm, Director of Education and Children's Services to see when the next step of the process will take place.

Winter Maintenance

Cllr Macleod advised that the priority designations for roads have remained unchanged for a number of years.

It was agreed that the issue should be raised at the next community conversation meeting.

Car Scrappage

Donnie advised that the scheme had been a great success and he hoped to organise another one. Funding is available for another scheme.

It was agreed that Donnie will take the project forward.

Police Matters

Donnie advised that there does not seem to be capacity within the police to attend meetings despite plenty of warning about the dates. He circulated details of a survey that Police Scotland are carrying out.

Correspondence

Self-Build Fund

Donnie advised the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust have a scheme to help people looking to get a mortgage.

It was agreed that Donnie would pass the information to Fios for inclusion in a future issue.

Community Learning and Development

Donne advised that he has received a letter from Sarah Campbell inviting people to a meeting on 13 March to discuss thoughts on where the local area is going.

It was agreed that all available Community Council members would attend the meeting.

Any other competent business

Urras Oighreachd Ghaisbann

It was agreed that Katie Mackenzie would write to UOG on behalf of the Community Council to express sympathy following the recent fire and offer support.

Camcal

Donnie Macleod advised that he had attended a meeting with the Camcal the Community Board that represents the view of the community in relation to the services provided by Calmac.

The CalMac Community Board is being facilitated by CalMac Ferries Limited and is chaired by former council leader Angus Campbell. Its primary purpose is to be the voice of the communities and provide the community view to CalMac.

It was agreed that Donnie will contact them to invite them to a meeting in the district.

Scottish Affairs Committee visit to Stornoway 18 February 2019

Katie Mackenzie and Donnie Macleod attended this meeting for community councils. They reported that the MPs present appeared to be interested in the issues that were raised and this was a useful way for people based in Westminster to find out more about the issues affecting the Islands.

Scottish Water WI Form

It was noted that no one from the Community Council was able to attend the meeting.

Carbon Literacy Training

Donnie Macleod had attended this training and reported back and there was a lot of information about global warming. Donnie is now certified to deliver the training if required.

Co-opting of new member

It was agreed that Helen Mackenzie be co-opted onto the Community Council.

Date of the next meeting

Monday 25 March 2019 at 19.30, venue to be advised.