

Benbecula Community Council

(Chair, Gail Robertson)

Minute of Meeting held on Thursday 24th January 2019 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, Councillor Iain Macleod

Public: Vanessa Langley

Police: WPC Liz MacKay

2. Apologies:

C'Ilors Iain MacNeil, Roddy MacKay

3. Minutes of meeting of 11th October 2018

Approved by Linda, seconded by Murdina

4. Matters Arising from Minutes of 11th October Meeting:

Road traffic matters, Balivanich and Liniclate areas discussed. WPC MacKay informed the meeting of increased police presence monitoring traffic in the Balivanich area, near to Primary School. This has immediate impact of slowing traffic, as presence of police is highly visible. Gail to continue to raise this item in meetings with editor of Am Paipear.

The Chair and Clerk informed the meeting that the Petition presented by Cheryl Poole was delivered by C'Ilor 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.

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

Balivanich Old Primary School. The meeting informed that sale not as yet complete. Hugh advised that old windows vandalised have been replaced with new windows by the Comhairle.

Mains Drains, Balivanich area, and recent flooding. Councillor Robertson to discuss again with Storas Uibhist, Dept of Agriculture and CnES Officer David MacLeod on his return from sickness absence. UCVO Offices in Airport Road flooded yet again, as were other premises (D. MacDonald, and East Camp).

Footpaths. Now responsibility of CnES Director Calum Iain MacIver, not Mr MacKinnon (departmental restructuring). C'Ilor Robertson to provide more information on new Comhairle staffing and Senior

Officer to be invited to future meeting of Benbecula Community Council, as previously offered by Mr MacKinnon.

5. Speed Limits and Road Safety

C'llor Robertson advises that implementation of newly agreed speed limit at the Liniclate to Creagorry area likely to take up to six months. Public Notice still to be advertised.

White Lining. Pleased to note "SLOW" road markings in key strategic areas, as previously discussed, but concern about delay in white lining on Gramsdale to Balivanich road, after tar chipping last July. This can make driving in the dark winter months quite dangerous.

The Clerk referred to present Scottish Government Consultation on 20mph speed restrictions in built up areas. Members referred again to the benefits to be had from improved road signage, especially "Smiley Face" sign with speed of approaching vehicle showing. Costs of installation, and maintenance not known.

6. Benbecula Flag

Contact person from Court of the Lord Lyon who attended information meeting of Benbecula Community Council on 29th November 2018 is

Philip Tibbetts Esq OLI MA (St And) FSAScot APMP

Honorary Vexillologist, Court of the Lord Lyon

Advisor, Parliamentary Flags & Heraldry Committee

Communities Vexillologist, Flag Institute

Three Community Council Areas remain interested, namely Benbecula, North Uist and Eriskay. Gail and Philip have already visited Balivanich Primary School and Liniclate School and met interested staff and pupils. Philip's Office can be responsible for taking forward in terms of publicising a "local competition" inviting submissions from schools and any other interested parties.

Members agreed after discussion to refer this matter to be coordinated through the Association of Uist Community Councils. Philip to be invited to attend an early meeting and clerk to liaise with Philip and C'llor Robertson, Chair of the Association, to organise.

7. Treasurer Report

Murdina confirmed present balance in bank being £3,395.42. No refund received as yet from Tagsa Uibhist for annual payment made for rent of room when meetings held in their premises. No record of any income received from councillors (Ward funds), towards Tagsa Social Clubs, Christmas Meal. This now to be left to TU to resolve from monies already held in respective Social Club accounts.

Izabela referred to request of donation from BCC for Balivanich PlayPark Christmas Disco, sweets, etc. Izabela requested by chair to submit application pro forma to Treasurer for grant of £70.

8. Ward Funding

Griminish War Memorial (Galvanise wreath holder). A quote of £130 + VAT and cost of mainland transport. Hugh to continue to liaise with Engineer Mr Shepard, and speak with Buchanan's Transport regards mainland delivery and return.

Laird School of Dance. Application for costs of maintenance, painting of hall. Total cost is £520. Other fundraising activity expected to raise £200. Agreed to make grant of £150 from BCC. Chair and Treasurer to liaise with Lorna MacKay regarding payment.

9. Correspondence

Clerk referred to Planning Applications received and other emails copied to file.

- (i) PlayParks. Correspondence regarding funding from the Comhairle. Izabela is not wishing to pursue this funding stream for the Balivanich PlayPark, amount available is too small.
- (ii) Blue Bins (Plastic waste) - Jeremy Naylor. Clerk referred to correspondence expressing concern about waste plastic being dispersed when bins blow over. Secure lock can be requested from Market Stance, but more general universal approach needed with all householders. C'Ilor Robertson has information, copied to Clerk, of Scottish Government "Zero Waste Scotland" modelling exercise awaited, with capital and revenue monies being made available. C'Ilor Robertson to discuss further with Comhairle responsible officer, David Macleod.
- (iii) Crown Estates Assets. The Comhairle is awaiting further information from the Scottish Government on how local authorities can become owners of these significant assets. Decision from CnES P & R Committee Meeting of 12th December 2018:

It was agreed to recommend that the Comhairle agrees to note:

- (1) the enactment of the Crown Estate (Scotland) Bill by the Scottish Parliament; and
- (2) future prospects for local management of Crown Estate assets and Regional Marine Planning in the Outer Hebrides Marine Region.

10. CalMac Community Board

Gail is a Member of this Board, and provided summary of last meeting held in Gourock, with visit to Ferguson's Ship Building Yard where new ferries are being built. The Board is about to announce details of a new Community Fund offering grants of £500 to £2000 for community projects aimed at young people up to 26 year's old. This fund will be open for applications from 1st March (details will be widely publicised and on web site).

A pilot scheme, in conjunction with Business Gateway, aimed at promoting island businesses, is to take place in the form of a Conference aboard the ferry on the Oban to Colonsay route. If successful, this will be further promoted and extended by the Community Board.

School trip discounts for mainland activities are being supported by CalMac and the Transport Minister.

11. Police Report

WPC Liz MacKay reported on recent police activity targeted towards speeding vehicles and anti-social behaviour. Road Safety checks are proving effective, short term, with one referral to the Procurator Fiscal. Follow up investigation is proceeding after referral of vandalism at local supermarket. Members expressed concern about such behaviour in our community.

12. Comhairle Members' Report

Councillors Robertson and MacLeod updated the meeting on recent public conversations on Budget setting exercises, with £5.3m savings to be made in next Financial Year (2019-20). A "Scoring Exercise" has been undertaken by all councillors with further meetings planned before committees meet again 19-21 February, when budget will be set. Local councillors wish to emphasise that Uist priorities are different from other islands, and meet as a group to agree the best way forward.

It was reported that an anticipated Council Tax increase of 3% would raise an amount upwards of £300k. Library vans are likely to be replaced as already agreed at previous Comhairle meeting, and the Islands' Deal is actively being taken forward by Director Calum Iain MacIver, Sustainable Communities.

Single Island Authority initiatives by the Comhairle are being discussed with colleagues in NHSWI. Spaceport proposals for North Uist, Scolpaig area, are firmly embedded in the private sector, but discussions still on-going with the Comhairle.

Lochmaddy Pier infrastructure developments to accommodate new ferry will require capital funding of £16m.

13. AOCB

Hugh referred to poor condition of the Aird emergency vehicles "Escape route" road, as a result of Scottish Water vehicles engaged in major work in this area. C'Ilor Robertson will discuss with Scottish Water team leader, Peter McNab.

Creagory Co-op, Road verges. Disabled car parking now properly designated by road markings, but adjacent road verge suffers from dangerous subsidence, Councillors to refer to Transport Dept.

Ordination of Ronald Campbell. Hugh referred to this significant event in June, and recommends this be supported by the Community Council. To discuss further at next meeting.

14. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Thursday 28th February at 6pm at Sgoil Lionacleit. Pupil Council representatives to attend.

Andrew Walker

Clerk, Benbecula Community Council

(21 February 2019)

