

Benbecula Community Council

(Chair, Gail Robertson)

Minute of Meeting held on Thursday 28th February 2019 at 6.00pm

At Sgoil Lionacleit, Room 18

1. Welcome and Present (Linda MacDonald in the Chair)

Councillors: Linda MacDonald (Vice Chair), Andrew Walker (Clerk), Murdina Naylor (Treasurer), Hugh MacCormick

CnES: Councillor Iain Macleod

Public: Fiona Buchanan, Rhoda Muncaster

Lionacleit Pupil Council: Andrew Muncaster with Depute Headteacher Heather MacDonald

2. Apologies:

Police: WPC Liz MacKay

C'Ilors Iain MacNeil, Roddy MacKay, Uisdean Robertson

Public: Vanessa Langley

Gail Robertson, Chair, Benbecula Community Council

3. Minutes of meeting of 24th January 2019

Approved by Linda, seconded by Murdina (Gail to forward amendment to clerk on item 10).

4. Matters Arising from Minutes of 24th January Meeting:

Road Traffic matters. Fiona Buchanan is in weekly contact with Police Chief Inspector regarding speeding in the Balivanich area, and monitoring implementation of extension of 40mph speed limit on Liniclate to Creagorry road (Public Notice still to be advertised). Linda has noticed improvement in the Nunton area. C'Ilor Macleod commented that the pedestrian crossing petition lodged by Balivanich residents, is included in the Balivanich Improvement plan, consultant's report, and will be actioned by this implementation group.

News from C'Ilor MacLeod that the sale of the old Balivanich Primary School has been terminated before completion.

Mains Drains and Footpaths: C'Ilors Robertson and Macleod still dealing with these matters. Reorganisation of Comhairle personnel has resulted in new staff contacts for follow up discussion.

C'Ilor Macleod continues to discuss issues pertaining to disabled parking and dangerous "soft" verges at Creagorry Co-op.

5. Benbecula Flag

The Clerk reiterated that this matter is being taken forward in respect of the three respective localities by the Association of Community Council, Uists. Philip, from the Office of the Lord Lyon, is hoping to attend a meeting of the Association towards the end of March. Clerk liaising also with Chair of the Association C'Ilor Robertson, for confirmation of date. Andrew Muncaster, Pupil Council representative, will be kept fully informed, as competition for flag to include school pupils.

Philip has suggested following dates as being suitable:

"The easiest days for me would be between the 18th and 23rd March - I should be pretty flexible. 28-29th might be workable as well."

6. Treasurer Report

Murdina referred to a present Bank Balance of £3,405.42. A refund of £160 has been received from a Tagsa Uibhist (room rental). All cheques issued have been cleared. A financial year-end report will be compiled, and all accounts forwarded to the Comhairle to be audited.

7. Ward Funding

Three application were discussed and agreed as follows:

- (i) North Uist Amateur Athletics Club. £250.00
- (ii) Lochdar School Music Club. £100.00
- (iii) Lochdar School Mainland Trip. £300.00

Treasurer will confirm with respective applicants, and arrange payment.

8. Correspondence and Planning Applications

The Clerk receives considerable items, many for information only. The most relevant since last meeting are referred to here:

- i. UCVO Membership fee paid. Development Officer Donald John MacDonald willing to meet with councillors to discuss advantages of membership, and dates offered to meet. Clerk to invite him to future meeting of BCC.
- ii. Insurance Renewal, BCC. Previously paid for by Highland Council, now to be paid by the Comhairle. Once invoice received Clerk to forward to Derek MacKay, CnES.
- iii. Coastal Theme Grants, Tesco. Clerk to forward email to all councillors for consideration at next meeting.
- iv. GreenSpace Scot. Centenary Grants. Again, Clerk to forward to councillors.
- v. Community Resilience. Online survey completed by Clerk.
- vi. Association of Community Council, Comhairle Budget Meeting, 11th February attended by Chair and Murdina (see Members' Report below).
- vii. Benbecula Flag. Correspondence from Philip, Office of the Lord Lyon.
- viii. Planning Applications. All are posted to the BCC email page. One of relevance to BCC area, relates to construction of Agricultural Shed, Uachdar.

9. CalMac Community Board

Gail Robertson, sits as a member of this Board. In her absence, she has informed office bearers that the next meeting is scheduled to take place in Edinburgh, in April, to accommodate the attendance of the SG Minister. BCC Members also discussed progress, as is known, of the two replacement ferries, and recent Press Release from the Comhairle Chair of Transport Committee requesting more attention is given to additional ferry replacements for ageing fleet, to meet increasing demands from both public and commercial customers. Members are aware of contractual dispute between the SG and Ferguson's shipyard, as made public, relating to specification changes and increased costs.

Pupil Council representative reminded by Fiona of Free four-journey tickets available using Young Scot card, for those over 12 Years of age.

10. Police Report

No report, apologies from WPC MacKay, but information provided that new Police Sergeant appointed and expected within next two months, and full complement of 8 police constables will be in post in the Uists.

11. Comhairle Members' Report

C'Illoir Macleod reported as follows:

- i. Comhairle Budget for 2019-20 approved at Committee/Full Council, last week. Main issues are about need for continued savings, increase in Council Tax by 4.79% and Fees/Charges for services amended for residential accommodation residents from over 30% to 3%.
- ii. Care staff vacancies across Health and Social Care sector running at over 100 posts (not WTE). This has resulted in recruitment of six locum carers from mainland agency, one located in the Uists. Heather was able to refer to Foundation Apprenticeships in schools being offered by the Comhairle Education Dept. Employment is guaranteed at completion. One fifth year pupil presently engaged in Health & Social Care apprenticeship. This is considered to be a most welcome development providing options and choices for pupils, especially those who wish to remain living on-island.
- iii. Uist C'Illoirs Robertson, MacNeil and Macleod recently met with officers of TIG to discuss their role and presence in the Uists: there are 31 employees but only one located in the Uists. This was a constructive meeting, and meetings will continue on a bi-monthly basis.
- iv. SpacePort developments, North Uist. This is being led by Comhairle Director Iain MacIver and Departmental Head Joe MacPhee on behalf of the Comhairle but main interest is from the Private Sector. The Comhairle is in the process of purchasing land to facilitate this development. Local employment opportunities should become available, especially in relation to required infrastructure.

12. AOCB

- i. Fiona expressed concern about lots of litter around the Liniclate beach area, near to the wind turbine. Linda also raised concerns about domestic tenant's refuge being dumped at Cula Bay site, beside litter bins. C'Illoir Macleod to follow up with Comhairle Officers.
- ii. C'Illoir Macleod informed the meeting of further Comhairle "Public Conversation" events planned for later in March, Round 2. Details of dates, times, venues will be widely advertised.

13. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Provisionally agreed for **Thursday 28th March at 6.00pm** to be held at UCVO Office Board Room, 41 Airport Road, Balivanich. To confirm.

Andrew Walker

Clerk, Benbecula Community Council

(3rd March 2019)