

NORTH TOLSTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Note of the AGM of the North Tolsta Community Council held at the Community Hall, North Tolsta, on Tuesday, 30 April 2019, at 7pm.

PRESENT: Angus Murray (AM); John A MacIver (JM); Fiona Black (FB); Cllr Calum MacLean; Cllr John A MacIver (JAM); Fiona MacLeod (FM); Donald MacIver (DMI) Stuart Thomson (ST); Erica MacLeod (EM); Donald MacKinnon (DMK).

APOLOGIES: Cllr Donald Crichton.

CHAIR: Stuart Thomson.

1. Note of last AGM

No note available of a previous AGM

2. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's Report was as follows:

This is actually our first AGM since the inaugural meeting on 27 October 2015 at which this present committee was elected so there is no Note of a previous AGM.

I would now like to give you a brief summary of some of the activities of the Community Council over the course of the year to 18 months.

Druim Leathann

Last year we helped to raise awareness in the community about the proposed wind turbine development in Glen Tolsta through the circulation of an information leaflet drop. This led to two very well attended public meetings in June 2018 and August 2018, the last of which was attended by Alasdair MacLeod, Director of Renewables Generation at Forsa Energy. Alasdair also gave a presentation to the Community Council on 12 February 2019. We are assured that Forsa's community consultation will continue and Forsa are due up again in the summer of this year.

All Weather Facility/PACT

The All-weather facility project had progressed to planning application last year but was later deferred while we awaited costings for the flood lighting. That has now been submitted and our resubmission for planning can be completed. This coming year we hope to make some progress with the proposed all-weather facility in terms of funding applications (through PACT), including TCDL, Sport Scotland and the Robertson Trust. Total project costs could be up to about £500,000.

War Memorial and Remembrance Service

The grant was finally drawn down for the war memorial and the works completed successfully. The Remembrance Service went well and was followed by a buffet in the Community Hall.

Play Parks

The Play Parks funding had now been secured with the help of John working with Mairi Smith at the Comhairle and these funds are expected to be in the Community Council's bank account by the end of the financial year although there is no rush to spend.

Community Hall

As you know we had some trouble with the heaters in the Community Hall which have not been working and which were not going to get replaced by either the manufacturer Dimplex or the retailer Medlock. After a very lengthy process, the heaters were replaced and installed by ACE Electrical at no further cost to the Community Council.

Tolsta School

The Community Council organised a public meeting in June of last year which was well attended and was addressed by the Director of Education and Children Services. There has been no further action since then due to the other demands on people's time mainly. However, going forward, the Community Council has agreed to make one more appeal to parents, but only if backed up by local community groups and the wider community. As discussed at previous meetings, including the one with the Director, parents have considerable influence in terms of the long-term future of the school. However, the future of the school needs to be a part of wider community development which will be challenging.

The Community Council was represented at the Community Conversations in Back about the Comhairle's service redesign, delivery and the practicalities of Community Hubs. The school could be that hub but community capacity would be vital. There have to be jobs, housing and community facilities, for example.

Trip to Harris

The August Holiday trip to Harris was well attended with a stop-off at the Machair Kitchen for lunch.

Tràigh Mhòr/Garry and Cladach

The construction of the concrete bin bays at Tràigh Mhòr, Garry and the Cladach was completed in 2018 and part-funded by the Comhairle's Challenge Fund and the Community Council. The Tràigh Mhòr footpath was also completed in 2018. The Community Council also expressed an interest in the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund to procure disposal units for camper vans at the Tràigh Mhòr, but no feedback has been received on that particular Fund as yet.

Finally, I think the village flowers planters have generated a lot of interest and have been well received.

The Committee thanked the Chairman for his Report.

A number of comments were made as follows:

- The Concrete bin bays had been part-funded through the Wards Initiative as well as the Comhairle's Challenge Fund.
- With regards to the school, nothing had been done in the intervening months since the meeting with the Director of Education in June 2018 and following the 'Community Conversations', it was apparent that the closure of the school was very much on the agenda. The Director would meet with parents on 13 May and with a prospective roll of 9 pupils going forward, the school's closure looked probable. It was agreed that the Community Council need not spend time lobbying against the closure of the school as there just did n't appear to be any obvious wider community support.
- There was view expressed that the Comhairle could have invested more in the school in the past, e.g. catering, nursery/wraparound care, Gaelic Medium, some of which could have been assisted by TCDL.

3. Annual Accounts

A balance of £7372.67 was reported at the meeting although a cheque for £2,300 would be deducted from this as it had to be resubmitted.

It was agreed that toilet maintenance remittance should be on a quarterly basis as the above cheque was for a two year period.

There were a number of transactions that required identification and these related to a private donation (deposit), Pact design and planning and the costs of grass cutting at the play park.

A cheque would need to be written for the Treasurer's remuneration.

4. AOCB

Quite a lot of discussion ensued about the graffiti on Garry Bridge and the difficulties in removing it.

There was quite a bit of discussion about whether the bridge was listed. The Comhairle had confirmed to AM that it was listed and he would circulate that confirmation.

That also limited what the Community Council would be allowed to do with it.

FB had contacted the Stornoway Trust as the bridge was on their land but no progress to report since then beyond an acknowledgement.

It was suggested that as the bridge was listed, perhaps the Comhairle's Planning service could enforce a planning order.

AM would contact Planning in the first instance.

Note of the AGM of Pairc Aig Clann Tholastaidh (PACT) at the Community Hall, North Tolsta, on Tuesday, 30 April 2019, following on from the Community Council AGM.

Present: Angus Murray (AM), John A Maciver (JAM), Fiona MacLeod (FM), Stuart Thomson (ST), Norma Macritchie (NM).

Chair: John A MacIver

1. Election of Trustees

The Chair reported that all of the original Trustees of PACT had left and its remit had been effectively taken over by the Community Council in 2018. This was mainly to progress the proposed all-weather sports facility and the play park.

However, OSCR would need to be notified of the departure of previous Trustees and the election of any new trustees. It was agreed that all in attendance would become Trustees, in a non-participating role, apart from JAM and AM who would continue to work toward the progression of the all-weather project.

2. Annual Accounts

The Chair circulated the Annual Accounts, up 31 March 2018, reporting a balance of £4,779.

The meeting closed.