

## CASTLEBAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting held in Castlebay School on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at 6pm

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Michael Galbraith	Chair	Christina MacNeil	Vice Chair
	Marion MacNeil	Committee	Eoin MacNeil	Committee
	Euan Scott	CBaB	John MacLennan	Public
	Cllr Donald Manford			
	Domhnall Martinn	Lord Lieutenant	Mrs Elizabeth McAtear	Vice Lieutenant

**APOLOGIES:** Iain G MacNeil, Cllr Iain MacNeil, Cllr Paul Steele, Cllr Calum MacMillan

Michael welcomed those in attendance. As there is no Clerk at present, Marion agreed to take minutes. Michael introduced Domhnall Martin, Lord Lieutenant for the Western Isles and the Vice Lieutenant Mrs Elizabeth McAtear. Domhnall gave an outline as to the role of Lord Lieutenant and their responsibilities as the Queen's representatives. This ranged from attending events/ceremonies to arranging royal visits. A summary of the work of the Lieutenancies will be published in the Guth. Michael thanked Domhnall & Mrs McAtear for attending and they both left the meeting.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES (04/10/2018):** Proposed by Christina MacNeil and seconded by Eoin MacNeil.

#### 1. TRANSPORT

**Ferry Service:** Cllr Donald advised that an earlier departure for the Winter Timetable (2019) had been proposed. Cal Mac have no issue with this, however, further consultation with the community is required. Eoin advised the Community Board Chair Angus Campbell was keen to meet with the Community Council and a meeting would be arranged early in the New Year.

**Action:** Eoin to seek public views via the Guth regarding the proposed change.

**Air Service:** Michael indicated that passenger numbers had increased. He advised that Loganair had cut 29 flights from the winter timetable to cover the additional extra flights required during the summer. This proposal had been previously agreed, however, they have reduced the service by 29 flights this winter and only offered 20 flights during the summer. Therefore, the island is owed an extra 9 flights.

Michael discussed the Airport Strategic Airport Plan 2018-2021 for Barra Airport. Keen to engage with local stakeholders and the community for feedback on the local priorities. A discussion on how the airport is the main tourist attraction on the island, Cllr Donald suggested the need for a Feasibility/Development study to assess the impact on users, tourists and the economy. It was agreed that the Airport requires development to cope with the demands of locals and tourists alike. Eoin queried if HIAL had access to a beach wheelchair. They currently have one but potentially better ones are available.

**Action:** Michael to look at possibilities of other wheelchairs. Members to contact Michael with feedback on the priorities within the local Plan and any other ideas.

#### 2. HOUSING

Christina attended the recent HHP meeting held in Barra. Discussions were had regarding the current Housing Allocation Policy. She was advised that HHP follow guidelines set by the Scottish Government and abide by the law. The current HHP Western Isles Allocation Policy is out for consultation. Dena MacLeod (HHP) suggest Christina contact the Housing Minister, which she did, along with the local MP to look at the issue as a matter of urgency. Out of the last 10 houses allocated locally, only 2 were allocated to local people within the island. Suggestions were made regarding Social Bite – building small houses and individuals are given support with their mortgages. Cllr Donald attended the housing meeting in Uist and advised progress was being made to set up a joint Uist and Barra Housing Association type organisation.

**Action:** Eoin to respond to the WI Allocation Policy consultation document stressing the priority for locals – key workers and the need for local decision making.

### 3.HERRING WALK

Euan confirmed that CBaB were looking at developing this area and produced a draft path plan. Potential funding from Sustrans would allow for a concept design and construction costs. However, MacNeil of Barra has advised that he will not transfer the lease to CBaB until the outstanding rental is paid. A total amount of £800 is outstanding. The Community Council were unaware of this due to a change in new committees and MacNeil has never highlighted or issued any invoices for the annual £100 rental.

**Action:** Euan to ask his Board if they would consider splitting this cost with the Community Council to ensure the amount is paid and the project can proceed.

### 4. SCHOOL / HOSPITAL PROJECT

Cllr Donald gave a background briefing on the projects and the newly proposed joint venture. The Comhairle have committed £7m for the new Castlebay School project but estimated costs to complete are £14m. They hope to apply for funding from the SG to bridge this gap. The Care home/hospital project has been allocated £18.5m jointly from Cnes/Health Board. The SG have indicated that both projects cannot be community 'hubs' and the suggestion to combine the two which would potentially receive £40m from the SG to complete both. The full Business Case continues to be delayed for submission for the Care home/hospital and causing great concern within the community. Both the Care home/hospital and schools projects have been ongoing for many years. The issue is the timescale. The island is in need of both new developments and further delays are concerning. However, it was noted that it was imperative to look at the wider outlook for what would be best for the future of the community. CNES have released a report indicating the community consultation would take place regarding this. It has been noted by all members of the Community Council that it is crucial to work closely with agencies on this issue.

Euan noted that CBaB were keen to work closely with the project as there was potential to develop and extend a District Heating system around Horve, reducing fuel poverty in Castlebay.

**Action:** Michael to write to Gordon Jamieson – Chief Executive Health Board – to query the timescale for the Business Case submission for the Hospital/Care Home project. Eoin to consult with the local Locality Plan committee regarding their views. Cllr Donald to contact CNES and request that the Community Consultation takes place asap – preferably January 2019.

### AOCB

**Annie Jane Monument:** A local group has been set up to maintain this area. They are currently awaiting quotes to build a stone wall and bench.

**Cockle Strand:** Marine Scotland responded to the request of a Regulatory Order to ensure no cockles were picked during a certain period to allow the cockles strand to recover. They requested a lot of evidential information that this was required. Euan had a report dated in 2009. Cllr Donald suggested a survey to be done as this matter is of urgency.

Michael thanked everyone for attending and advised the date of the next meeting will be confirmed by email.