

Benbecula Community Council meeting

2nd December 2019 @ UCVO

Present: Rona Mackay (chairperson), Andrew Muncaster (vice chair), Alison MacDonald (Treasurer), Hugh MacCormick, Vanessa Langley, Alasdair MacEachan

Minute taker: Alison MacDonald

Councillor(s): Roddy Mackay

Apologies: Fiona Buchanan

Minutes from 25th November 2019: Approved by Rona seconded by Hugh

Matters arising

Alison confirmed Andrew Walker had done a hand over. Roddy Mackay CnES had been contacted about face to face training, Ailean got back in touch and said it will be organised after the election.

Action: Alison to keep this on the agenda

Alasdair updated the group on the progress of the dog fouling project, Roddy confirmed he would supply the high viz vests and could ask the school to do some education on the issues of dog fouling as Alasdair mentioned children can be walking the dogs at times. Alison asked about payments as the bank has not been transferred over yet, Roddy will ask the previous groups advice. The salt bins were also discussed, Alasdair has a quote and has passed this to Rona and confirmed the council are willing to uplift the bins outwith the winter season, the bins could be placed anywhere in Uist as people shop in MacLennans form all over the Island, this could be done through social media.

Action: Roddy to contact previous committee about cheque signing.

Action: Roddy to contact the school re education/ awareness of dog fouling.

Action: Rona to contact Ronald re funding.

Alasdair discussed the scheme to recycle plastic from agriculture waste, the suggestion is that the plastic waste could be stored in a similar way to sheep's wool, the council may also agree to bail it to ensure it is viable to send away in the quantities needed. As this is an issue Uist wide this will be discussed further with other community councils. Grants may also be available due to the nature of the project.

The group discussed various issues relating to climate change and the issues we are facing locally such as recycling, deposit return schemes, flooding etc. The group felt it would be useful to have a sub group formed from the various community councils and other interested parties as these issues are occurring in areas throughout Uist.

Action: Rona to contact the community councils across Uist.

Rona had received an update from Alison Cropper, the projects are currently being costed and once this is completed they will have a better idea of what can be completed within the time frames. Projects have to be confirmed by March 2020 and completed by September 2020. Alison suggested some projects may be more suited to be taken on by the community council such as lighting the water tower. This will be discussed further at a later date.

Roddy gave an update on the Flag competition. North Uist and Eriskays are progressing however there was an issue with the Benbecula flag between the drawing stage and the authorisation stage. Benbecula Community Council (BCC) are happy for the group formed consisting of Roddy MacKay, Izabella Doyle, Linda MacDonald & Kyra Stephenson to continue with Rona progressing this however keeping the BCC updated.

The next meeting is on Thursday 23rd January 2020 at 5.30pm in the UCVO office.