

Benbecula Community Council
Minute/Note of Meeting

DATE : Thursday 20th February 2020 @ 5.30 pm
VENUE : UCVO

1. Present: Rona MacKay (Chairperson), Andrew Muncaster (Vice Chair), Alison MacDonald (Treasurer & Note taker), Fiona Buchanan, Vanessa Langley, Hugh MacCormick, Angela MacDonald, Iain Stephen Morrison, Alasdair MacEachan, Peter Coldwell, Gail Robertson, Tracey Walker. **Councillors -** Iain MacLeod & Iain MacNeil

Apologies – Roddy MacKay (HIAL), Sheena Stewart, Alison Cropper & **Councillors:** Roddy MacKay & Uisdean Robertson

2. Proposal of previous minutes (23/1/2020): Proposed by: Fiona Buchanan & Seconded: Rona MacKay

Item		Summary and Action	Who	When
2	Matter arising	<p>Information previously provided regarding the amended sailings while the Uig slipway work is being carried out was incorrect, Lochmaddy ferry traffic will travel direct to Ullapool.</p> <p>Gail has not been able to sign the forms transferring over to the new committee, Gail will try again tomorrow and if unsuccessful to contact Alison.</p> <p>Alison checked the previous minute's, but nothing was noted regarding funding to Sgoil Lionacleit therefore the current group will deal with it.</p>	Gail	21/2/20
3	Cycle route/ bus shelter	<p>Peter Coldwell (CnES) attended the meeting and gave an overview of what would be needed to link Liniclate to Baliavnic with a cycle path/ walking route. Initial work would include community consultation to view interest following by seeking guidance from crofters/ landowners.</p>	Fiona Andrew	Ongoing
4	Balivanich regeneration project	<p>Rona updated the group that the proposed work is now being costed by CnES in Stornoway. Alison confirmed the HHP social fund was submitted with a mini travel hub in Creagorry/ Liniclate and a shelter for a walking bus stop in Balivanich as the main items.</p>		

5	Crown estate funding	The CC had been passed the funding form in advance of the meeting; the criteria is still being discussed but the main CC members will meet next week to go over options. Alison to organise.	Alison	
6	Community Council training	A CC training seminar is being held in March 2020. A list of questions compiled by the group were sent to CnES about what we wanted included in the content.		
7	Association of community councils	Rona, Andrew and Vanessa attended the meeting. Topics discussed included; HIAL, school closures and emergency planning.		
8	Environmental projects	<p>Rona has completed the paperwork for the MADL fund through MacLennan's supermarket, the application has been approved so the group are just awaiting payment and the salt bins and high viz will be ordered. Rona will chase it up if she doesn't hear soon.</p> <p>Agriculture waste – Alasdair spoke of a project where the black wrap for bails was recycled and how it was facilitated. It was thought that there may be around 5000 miles of waste produced in Benbecula. Hugh and Alasdair are going to look at the costs/ requirements and Alison & Rona will submit a funding application form to pilot a recycling programme in Benbecula. The waste will be kept in large bags (like wool is) and then taken away in batches after being bailed at the waste transfer plant.</p>	<p>Rona</p> <p>Hugh, Alasdair, Rona & Alison</p>	Ongoing
9	Changes to air traffic control at Benbecula Airport	A petition has been created and has been sent to the Scottish Parliament for review. John Doig (previous HIAL management) has stated he will present the petition as he is fully supportive of it, Alasdair will consider being a representative from Uist who understands the impact this could have on the community. Andrew has sent correspondence to various agencies, MP's, MSP's etc highlighting the community's opposition to this plan.	Alasdair	
10	Recycling & water access - schools	There is concern by the group with the lack of commitment to recycling within Sgoil Lionacleit mainly as the pupils are keen to develop this. There has also been no installation of the water which the councillors and the CC gave funding towards in April 2019. Councillors agreed to bring the issue up with the director of education the following week. The CC will assist if pupils need a voice to help move this forward.	<p>Iain MacLeod</p> <p>Vanessa</p>	

11	HIAL - vest, boat, trailer & tractor	There was no further progress on this however Kim informed the group the tractor has been moved to another Island. It was also mentioned that the boat and trailer are situated outdoors and are now open to the elements. Kim will ask for an update of the situation.	Kim	19/3/20
12	Main Drain	Rona has a report from David Newman on behalf of the riding school with regards to the drain in the area of the bakery/ stables. The drainage committee is happy to work with the CC. Alison has spoken to someone regarding the other drain, she will pass the details to Rona.	Rona & Alison	Ongoing
13	Benbecula Flag	Rona is in contact with the Lord Lyon. Iain MacNeil suggested speaking with Eriskay regarding their progress.	Rona	Ongoing
14	Police update	No police were present however following the meeting an update was given by email as they were called away urgently.	Alison	
15	Councillors update	Budgets are being reviewed, there is less money than expected. Various cost saving options were discussed, the implications of an aging community and managing this was difficult. Employee forums were mentioned where staff can assist with suggested cost savings. The Spaceports revised planning permission is being worked on, Iain MacLeod will forward the full update to CC members.	Iain MacLeod	
16	Finance & Funding	There have been 3 funding requests however due to the bank situation we were unable to proceed on them, Alison will get in touch with them all to let them know they will be kept on the agenda.	Alison	19/3/20
17	Correspondence and social media	Speed limit in Linclate - Iochdar CC contact the group regarding the speed limit going into the area, they suggested warning signs regarding the reduction in speed, however having reviewed the area there are 7 '40' signs between Torlum road end and Sgoil Lionacleit. It was stated that there is no legal requirement for warning signs etc. The old Bakery Building was asked about, this is being dealt with through the Baliavnich regeneration fund. We Love Stornoway (website) – was in touch with Andrew stating if we want to advertise		

		anything to get in touch.		
18	AOCB	<p>A letter has been compiled regarding the policy for school closures and the short notice and uncertainty for parents. The group felt that their needs a specific Uist based emergency planning group, Alasdair explained what previously happened and was effective as it was a multi-agency response however nothing has been in place since that disbanded.</p> <p>Alison contacted CnES regarding the paperwork passed over. It was confirmed that they previous year's information (accounts, notes, general paperwork) needs to be kept as well as anything deemed important and an additional year's accounts. Alison will shred the rest.</p> <p>Tracey brought up the lack of toilet facilities for people using the community transport. Some of the group carry a blue card so they can use a toilet at short notice however Alasdair confirmed there is no legal requirement for places to participate in the scheme.</p> <p>CalMac have new board members with the Western Isles well represented.</p> <p>Thomas Fisher has offered CC's various training should they require it, Thomas is to be contacted if anyone is interested.</p> <p>Nunton steadings is for sale with a closing date of 13th March 2020.</p>	Rona Alison	Ongoing
19	Date of next meeting	19 th March 2020 @ 5.30 in the UCVO office.		