

Benbecula Community Council
Minute/Note of Meeting

DATE : Thursday 19th March 2020 @ 5.30 pm
VENUE : UCVO

1. Present: Rona MacKay (Chairperson), Andrew Muncaster (Vice Chair), Alison MacDonald (Treasurer & Note taker), Vanessa Langley, Hugh MacCormick, Sheena Stewart. Councillors – Uisdean Robertson & Iain MacNeil

Apologies – Angela MacDonald & Councillor: Roddy MacKay & Iain MacLeod

2. Proposal of previous minutes (20/2/2020): Proposed by: Hugh MacCormick & Seconded: Rona MacKay

Item		Summary and Action	Who	When
2	Matter arising	This was a closed meeting purely for public safety and due to Government guidelines relating to Covid-19. Uisdean Robertson sent apologies for the last meeting, the notes will be updated with this.		
3	Cycle route/ bus shelter	No update from HHP		
4	Balivanich regeneration project	The project has been extended by a year and all the decisions are to be reviewed. The community will still have input and the Councillors will have input into the decisions.		
5	Crown estate funding	The crown estate funding is expected to be oversubscribed. The group discussed the criteria.		
6	Community Council training	This training is postponed due to Covid-19 guidelines. We will request this is updated later in the year. The group were told of highland Council guidelines on community councils and it was suggested looking it up as a good way to describe how community councils work.		
7	Environmental projects	SNH application – this is progressing slowly but it is progressing, current employment issues relating to term of the project. There is going to be SNH funding for 1 year for a graduate placement, can be in Uist or Lewis.		

		<p>There are issues relating to the agriculture waste project relating to the landfill funding, it stated the group may need to lease or own a bit of land to qualify for funding. Hugh has offered to host a container on his land or on common grazing in Torlum. Alison to forward the application form to Hugh to look at.</p> <p>Mairead MacNab to be asked if she has any input into the amount of agricultural waste disposed of, it was also said that there may be more data available as the plastic waste has to be reported to the SSC the group could investigate where people are putting the waste just now.</p>		
8	Changes to air traffic control at Benbecula Airport	<p>The petition was handed in by Alasdair MacEachan online, Peter Henderson, rep for Orkney & John Doig previous air traffic control manager. The response yesterday was positive with a couple of small changes and once done it will be published online next week. Various areas will have different views however they may not understand the implications on the community and flights.</p> <p>Local councillors have met with various bodies and are trying to gain support and pass on the concerns and issues for communities. The Islands Act is being reviewed to ensure they are following the guidelines. Uisdean has written an article which appeared in the Herald and he has received a lot of support on it.</p> <p>The petition is to be send to all other community councils as this is an issue's that will affect all Islands.</p>		
9	Recycling & water access - schools	<p>No progress, a part was found for the water fountains upstairs so that is working although slow. Iain MacNeil will contact Willie MacDonald & Gordon Young, the group remain surprised that water is not easily available in the school.</p> <p>Andrew gave an update of what is going to happen following the cancellation of exams, issues exist of laptops in Stornoway, poor internet etc is going to be issues for many teachers and pupils.</p>		

10	HIAL - vest, boat, trailer & tractor	There is no update on this. Rona has been contacted by someone regarding the boat however there has been no formal offer by HIAL.		
11	Main Drain	Rona's next plan is to write to everyone surrounding the drain around the riding school regarding applying for a CAGS grant. Hugh said Storas would do the outlets & the department said they weekly check the sluice gates at Balivancih school & Aird.		
12	Benbecula Flag	No update on this currently however Rona is in contact with the Lord Lyon.		
13	Police update	No update from the police however Alison gave out Elizabeths's update from last month		
14	Councillors update	The ferries that are currently being worked on are going to be finished. Lochamddy work is ongoing and is expected to take a year. The closure of Uig has been publicised. Loganair are planning to do one morning flight- Glasgow to Benbecula to Sty to Glasgow, and one afternoon Glasgow to Stornoway to Benbecula to Glasgow. Awaiting bus contracts to be released. Roads have no budget and are just doing patch ups just now. Due to landfill issues there could be changes in how they work.		
15	Finance & Funding	The bank details are still to be transferred over, all the paperwork has been completed and we are now just waiting for the bank to send confirmation. MADL cheque has been sent direct to MacLennan's, Alison will pick it up.		
16	Correspondence and social media	The housing meeting planned for Friday going on, people can join by VC if needed. Andrew is vetting social media and allowing posts about community issues.		
17	New members	Tracy Walker – proposed by Rona seconded by Andrew We will wait for the next meeting to see if the other two who previously showed interest are still keen.		
18	Covid-19	Sheena informed the group that following a meeting with the OHCPP a group has been set up 'caring for people' 'Resilience Uist' has been set up, Storas are facilitating it and it will be working with the		

		<p>community, association of community councils are affiliated however the CC were not aware of the partnership, however, are supportive. The group felt the community need to understand the risk to the community. Andrew will keep the Facebook updated with factual information on Covid-19</p> <p>UCVO/ Am Paipear want to bring this altogether and plan to ensure all the information is online as well as in paper particularly for those not online.</p> <p>A new 'Business support group' has been set up – Iain MacNeil will contact them and find out more to ensure they are considering the local businesses in Uist.</p>		
19	AOCB	<p>The two new library vans are sitting in Stornoway and the current one in Uist is off the road. They are currently hiring a van locally for an excess cost. Uisdean will ask councillor MacNeil to enquire about this with the appropriate council representative.</p> <p>The aird road was discussed due to flooding, paths for all funding was mentioned to support sorting it out, Rona will speak to Greta about it. Hugh will get costing.</p>	Rona & Hugh	
20	Date of next meeting	Provisionally 21 st May 2020 @ 5.30 in the UCVO office.		