

Benbecula Community Council

Minute/Note of Meeting

DATE : Wednesday 1st July 2020 @ 7 pm

VENUE : Microsoft Teams

1. Present: Rona MacKay (Chairperson), Andrew Muncaster (Vice Chair), Alison MacDonald (Treasurer & Note taker), Vanessa Langley, Fiona Buchanan, Tracy Walker, Sheena Stewart, Angela MacDonald. Cllr Uisdean Robertson, Cllr Roddy MacKay & Cllr Iain MacNeil. Elizabeth Allen (attended part of the meeting).

Apologies – Hugh MacCormick, Gail Robertson & Cllr Iain MacLeod

Proposal of previous minutes (19th March 2020): To be circulated following the meeting.

Item		Summary and Action	Who	When
2a	Paths & Cycle routes	The CPP have looked at pathways as a priority due to the covid restrictions however Sustrans requirements make it difficult in rural areas however the group will keep looking at this. There has been no feedback from HHP regarding the previous funding application form re a cycle hub in Creagorry & a shelter in Balivanich where children can meet and travel to school together safely, Cllr RMK will enquire about this, Sheena will forward on the application form for reference.	Roddy & Sheena	
2b	Environmental projects	A resident had raised an issue regarding plastic coming out of the bin wagon when collecting the rubbish and bins blowing over however the group felt it is up to residents to secure the bin as the council can't be responsible. Some suggested were that a weight be put on the bin to ensure they don't blow over. There was previously a clip that could be bought however we were unsure if this was still available.		
2c	Air Traffic Control @ Balivanich airport	The BCC petition has been paused although HIAL are continuing with the remote towers project. UACC have written to MSP Alasdair Allan for support. CnES & the Cllr members are working hard to ensure the WI views are represented on this subject, Cllrs recently met with MSP Rhoda Grant who is supporting them. This work is a priority so they can safeguard local jobs. BCC thanked the Cllrs.		
2d	Drains	RMK has been speaking with the riding school however there is no township clerk for the area making the process harder although there are only 3 crofters affected which may help. SS highlighted that the drainage system is difficult to navigate and wondered	Rona	

		if there was any maps the MOD or CnES have, RMK said David Newman previously investigated the area however not sure to what capacity. Cllr Robertson said Angus MacPhail may be able to help, SS will contact him.	Sheena	
3	Airport boat & trailer	The airport boat & trailer have been given to BCC from HIAL. Hugh is picking up the boat & trailer and they will store in his shed. BCC have no use for the items and there have been quite a bit of interest in the items & the financial benefits of it. RMK will ask UACC views on the items to ensure it is a community asset whether in usage or financially.	Rona	
4	Uist Association of Community Councils (UACC)	The UACC minutes were previously circulated. Cllr Robertson updated us about the issues surrounding ferries, such as the implementation of the 2m social distancing rule, foot passengers needing to pre-book, priority to haulage firms etc. Turn up & go was considered wrong terminology as not everyone can go if the ferry is full. Lots of communities had views on campervans etc. Travel guidelines are very fluid and Cal Mac are trying to manage the situation as best they can keeping to the SG guidelines. Harris are looking at a by-law on stopping wild camping next summer. A ferry users group was spoken about at the meeting however it was felt it would need to be separate from the CC's and possibly link to the previous Lochboisdale ferry users group which Cal Mac weren't aware of at the time.		
5	Survey updates & views on lockdown	There have been 259 responses to the online survey from all over the Western Isles. Andrew ran through the feedback. There were concerns about transmission through the community and the date of easing lockdown. Others wanted to highlight lack of places open etc, the implications if a tourist test positive while on the Island. People wanted priority for locals as opposed to tourists when travelling. Some highlighted how difficult it was to open businesses with the new guidelines. Oil workers were a concern due to their travel and concerns on MH for those who have been shielding.		
6	Restarting tourism in the Western Isles	With tourism being reintroduced there were concerns about those shielding or scared to leave home, the group discussed utilising local halls where they are an area available for those worried about contracting covid so they can get out more and prevent MH issues getting worse. Sheena will organise a group to discuss this as she is aware of groups having funding to do work like this, e.g. UU have life changes trust funding to support work with dementia and organisations are having to rethink how to offer that service as lunches etc are now not possible in the same way. Issues may be bringing people to the halls as the responsibility will be with their family.	Sheena	

7	Councillors update	<p>CnES have produced an 'Economy Recovery Plan', attendees who had read it thought it was good practice for Uist with a view to implementing good quality jobs being a priority as well as retaining these types of jobs within local communities. A new group will be formed called The Uist Economic Recovery Group. SG jobs would also be an advantage in the community and the Cllrs are working on this. Housing is also a factor in this as people will need good quality housing options particularly housing for families. Cllrs mentioned the recent media coverage on costs relating to the council chambers refurb however wanted to highlight the funding was agreed previous to Covid19 and the majority is for improving technology due to the poor quality particularly in Balivanich, Barra & Harris council offices, its aim is to also reduce travel time and cost. It has been difficult for the community to be represented when quality of VC is poor and it is hoped this improves.</p> <p>The RSHP (Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood) educational document has been discussed at various forums, the Cllrs have had a seminar and the material viewed. The resource is for preschool to senior school and Cllrs are encouraging parents to engage with the consultation process to form a view and ensure they view the resources that are going to be used, Cllrs also felt it was important to get teachers views on it as they will be responsible for delivering it in the curriculum.</p>		
8	Correspondence & Social media	<p>The BCC Facebook page continues to share relevant posts online regarding local information. AM spoke about a letter Thomas Fisher had sent to MSP Alasdair Allan & MP Angus Brendan MacNeil regarding the opening of the WI to tourism, Cllrs asked for a copy of the letter as they hadn't seen it. The letter was written before survey was completed but used part the information collated at that time.</p> <p>AM asked if petitions should be shared on the Facebook page however the group felt it would be best if the page stayed impartial.</p>	Andrew	
9	AOCB	<p>Cllr MacKay has been speaking with the purchasers of the old Balivanich School who do not want the Playpark which had to be included in the sale, they would like to pass over ownership asap, BCC felt the Balivanich Play Park group would be more suitable to take on this due their current involvement with the other Playpark in Balivanich.</p> <p>Cllr MacKay mentioned BNC had not received UCVO information booklets however it was believed the fire service had delivered to all in Balivanich, AMD will ask HMC about it.</p>	Alison & Roddy	

10	Date of next meeting	22 nd July 2020 @ 7pm on Microsoft teams.		
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