

# POINT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Ordinary Meeting  
held on  
7<sup>th</sup> December 2020  
via Google Meet

**Present:** Alex John Murray (Chair); Kenneth MacLennan; Joanne Dixon; Christine Morrison; Angus Lamont; Calum Mackenzie & Rhona Somerville (Clerk).

**Apologies:** Donald Macritchie; Alasdair Macleod & Norman Macleod.

**Re animal fouling and litter** – Christine Morrison spoke about the difficulty catching people in the act to issue fixed penalty of £80. Anonymous complaints can be made but council unable to take the matter further without identification of culprits. There are wardens who can patrol an area and visits can be targeted to problem areas. There have been no prosecutions in the past year. Since March, of course, there have been added complications with visiting due to Covid 19. Ken highlighted the problem of dog fouling at the Braigh as reported on the Facebook page. It was suggested that, perhaps, bags could be dispensed there from a machine to which Christine responded that the Comhairle could look at that. Alex John reported that the Bayble Pier is another area of prolific fouling and that when previously he had acquired and put up no dog fouling notices they were torn off within days. Ken enquired as to whether the bins that had appeared in Shulishader had been placed by the council. Christine thought that that would have been the Cleansing Department and stated that bagged dog waste can be placed in any residual waste bin. Ken requested that the Comhairle supply a skip for the proposed litter clean up in conjunction with the Co-Op next year. Christine further stated that there are no enforcement powers to compel horse owners to clean up after their animals as it poses no risks to humans.

**Re Road repairs and Verge Cutting** – Calum Mackenzie responded to Ken's concern re this and the ongoing lack of funding for this. Unfortunately, this is still the case as there are no funds for at least the next two years for any road maintenance and repairs that are not an immediate danger. In response to being asked if the road maintenance manual had been published yet the answer was 'No' but that it may be next year. Calum confirmed that there is a priority list based on annual inspections and volume of traffic. He confirmed that potholes and overgrown vegetation are something that the Roads Department can tackle despite revenue and capital budgets both having been cut with knock on effect to Breedon's tar plant and the quarry. With regard to road gritting, for now this will be the same as last year though it is a matter for discussion. Alex John also spoke about poor drainage in Bayble. Sustrans funding is not available for such works.

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**Re Anti-Social Road Use** – a report made by Calum Mackenzie to the committee on road safety highlighted that speeding and drink/drug driving have been increasing along with uninsured or unlicensed driving. Ken requested that consideration be given to the amendment to speed limits through the villages of Point. Calum responded that traffic calming measures often cause complaints of noise from nearby residents and that despite limits most drivers will drive to the road conditions regardless and that limits much lower can cause accidents through frustration as well as congestion. First action needs to be education followed by enforcement before any road engineering. Current limits within Point are in line with the National Guidelines, however he will request of Police Scotland that they do speed checks in the area when he meets with them later this month. He further suggested that Sustrans might be approached for funding for pavements or cycle paths where they are needed. He stated that road markers often mark to maximise road space to the detriment of pedestrian space off to the sides, something he wishes to moderate.

**Declarations of Interest:** None

**Matters Arising from Previous Minute:** Extraordinary meeting to be changed to informal. Re Bayble playpark committee item therein - just to get organised, have constitution. The minute of the last ordinary meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020 have been adopted.

**Re Gunnera Invoice:** This has been submitted, and paid.

**Re Playpark Update:** E-mail from Erica Clarke has been circulated re Shulishader Playpark. There are papers from the council to say that this is community owned. Ken will contact DJ MacSween for further information. Re Lower Bayble, she has contacted the playpark committee without reply so far.

**Re Challenge Fund:** As previously noted there was no reply to an application for this but Joanne has found a potential new funding stream – there is a Recovery Fund and a separate Adapt and Thrive fund both from SCVO. Joanne will forward documentation about this to members to look at. Re the second round of Crown Estate funding, there is clarification needed on deadline which Joanne has sought from Fiona Begg at the Comhairle, but if missed there will be another round at the start of the next financial year in March.

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**Re Treasurer's Report:** Nothing of note to report other than the transfer of monies to PST and the Gunnera fund. The role of Treasurer now being undertaken by Joanne.

**Re Urras Storas an Rubha:** Latest update is that there is a problem insofar as funds promised from Point and Sandwich Trust may not be forthcoming as their income has been limited by the cessation of wind farming due to the breaking of the cable. Thus, there is having to be adjustments and adaptations made. Discussions of options are to be undertaken and Angus will give a further update at the next meeting.

**Re Other Community Reports:** Ken is not on the Coastal Path committee but Joanne is and can report that the benches are being sorted out and that self-closing gates have been erected with more to be installed along with benches currently in storage. Work is progressing on the Shulishader steps and funding is being sought with consideration being given to provision of e-bikes. Nothing new to report from PST other than food distribution coming to an end imminently.

**Item (13):** On agenda, to be discussed at a future meeting.

**AOCB:** A wreath was laid on Remembrance Day. PCC, Sandwich and Stornoway could come together to form the nucleus of a federation of community councils. Alex John will look into arranging this.

**Next Meeting: 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021**