

Uist Association of Community Councils meeting, 10 June 2019

Present:

Andrew Rodger

Pamela MacAskill

Mary McCormick

John MacLean

Ian Hoyle (mins)

Donald John MacDonald

Sheena Stewart

Neil MacDonald

Anne Bird

Peter Bird

Cllr Uisdean Robertson

Cllr Iain M MacLeod

Cllr Iain A MacNeil

Apologies:

Gail Robertson

Cllr Paul Steele

Cllr Donald Manford

Cllr Calum MacMillan

1: Minutes read and approved.

2: Currently, school busses/coaches are charged full commercial fares on the ferry, this increases the cost of school trips. This can not be resolved until the next review of the RET fares. The association or the CCs should write to Gail (?).

3: The role of the UACC is to strengthen the local CCs. We need to encourage more people to join CCs.

We should put up information about the role of the CCs and to point out where we have made a real difference.

4: The Council's continuing budget cuts are really cutting into the bone now, and our bus service is under threat. 'Use it or lose it' seems very appropriate here.

5: Loganair are expanding the number of routes and increasing the number of destinations, but is this at the cost of our key services? They may be cutting some of the Stornoway to Inverness Flights.

6: Our two new, dual fuel, ferries are still nowhere near being finished, at the current rate it will be 2030 before they get into service.

7: There is a seminar planned for housing in the Uists and Barra. We hope this will be in August. Time is running out for HHP to secure the land and start building before the funding dries up.

8: The population in the Uists is aging, and there is a desperate need to attract and retain families here. There have been media reports that the Uists are bucking the trend and managing to attract families here, but this is misleading as families are leaving just as quickly. This is a serious problem and needs addressing. We need to formulate a plan to ensure that those in power understand the true position.

9: Linoclate School has installed a water station to allow pupils to refill their water bottles instead of buying new bottles. They are asking the CCs to donate £100 towards another water station. The school is struggling to get new staff, despite offering relocation funding and housing.

10: The Dentist debacle is still continuing. The danger of the 'hub' is still very present.

The next meeting will be held on Eriskay at 6:30, some time in early September.