

Minute/Note of Meeting	TITLE	Uist Association of Community Councils Meeting		
	DATE	Wednesday 19 th May 2020	TIME	7.30pm
	VENUE	online		

Present:	Angus MacDonald (Lochboisdale), Peter Bird (lochdar), Rona Mackay (Benbecula), Tracy Walker (Benbecula), Donald J MacDonald (Bornish), Anne Bird – minutes, Joan Ferguson(North Uist), Marie Campbell (Bornish), Vanessa Langley (Benbecula), Morag Ann MacAulay, (lochdar), Donnie Steele (lochdar), Malcolm Gibson (Berneray), Brian Currie (Barra and Vatersay), Michelle MacDonald (Noth Uist), Coinneach Morrison ScotGov
Apologies:	Cllr Manford, Cllr MacNeil, Cllr Steele, Cllr Macleod

Agenda Item	Summary	Action	Who?	When?
minutes 10/02/20	After a small change from NUCC, Proposed by JF seconded by VL.			
Matters arising	<p>OHCPP meeting, DJM attended but location of meeting was changed last minute and platform used for remote attendees was hugely problematic.</p> <p>Concerns relayed to Loganair and Cllr Robertson, Chair of Transport Committee, re lack of consultation on service changes (pre-lockdown), no response.</p> <p>HIAL contacted, voicing concerns re changes to Air Traffic control at Benbecula Airport. Reply received from Lorna Jack and circulated to CCs.</p> <p>WI MSP contacted requesting a visit from Scot Gov Housing Minister, acknowledged.</p> <p>Progress of E-Sgoil plans in Sgoil an lochdair: no update.</p> <p>MP contacted re collapse of Fibre roll out, no further details but MP instrumental in having the Hebnet switch off delayed.</p> <p>CalMac, at start of Lockdown, shared concerns re non-essential travellers through ferry ports. Concerns also relayed to Loganair.</p>			
Consultation with Coinneach Morrison, Scot Gov Islands Team	<p>PB welcomed Coinneach Morrison who gave updates on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current COVID-19 related Islands Team Priorities: CM and his colleagues give daily updates to Scottish Ministers and have regular meetings with Chief Exec of Scotland's six island authorities. CM also attends meetings of Island Strategic Group. CM reminded CCs that they can feed into this process using the feedback forms. Implementation of the National Islands Plan: most of the Islands team are currently working on Covid 19 Priorities but implementation of the Plan is ongoing but realigning some aims to fit in with Covid 19 requirements. 			

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Young Islanders Network: Islands team have been tasked with developing this group to give young people a voice, consisting of primary and secondary pupils, school leavers and other young islanders. Rollout of the Young Islanders Network will be dependent on several factors but is seen as a priority. Special consideration is being given to the positive role the YIN can play in supporting children and young people's mental health, both in the aftermath of lockdown and as we all move forward in the 'new normal'. · Island Communities Impact Assessments: CM explained that ICiAs are designed to island-proof decisions and strategies made by 71 different groups or authorities. The scheme of ICiAs is designed to bring genuine change but it is not currently a legal requirement. The Islands Team solicitors are working towards legality. A Retrospective ICiA can be requested via any ScotGov minister. 			
	Discussion	<p>Concern that Lockdown travel restrictions are open to abuse due to lack of resources at the ports. Anxiety about non-essential travellers also prevalent in an online survey by Benbecula CC. Also there is deep concern for older vulnerable islanders.</p> <p>Further discussion on HIAL proposals, concerns expressed that HIAL decision-making is driven by cost-cutting with no regard for local views and the opinion of some experts. CCs were informed that CnES have already asked for HIAL plans to be put on hold but this request was denied.</p> <p>Meeting reminded of huge volunteering effort that has grown during Covid19 with an appeal that this is continued beyond lockdown.</p> <p>Suggestion that there is forward planning around people wanting to come to the islands to live and work after lockdown and that more opportunities are created for young islanders to study and work on the Islands.</p> <p>PB thanked CM for attending, CM reminded CCs to report concerns using the Covid19 response sheet or to contact him directly.</p> <p>Further discussion re current concerns and post-Covid19 issues.</p>	<p>Relay concerns to Police and Scot Gov re non-essential ferry travellers.</p> <p>Compile a list of questions to be put to the MSP and copied to CM for allocation to the appropriate departments.</p>	<p>PB</p> <p>UACC</p>	<p>asap</p> <p>asap</p>
	Date of Next Meeting	Thursday 28th May, 7pm online.	Circulate date	PB	asap

