

## Castlebay & Vatersay Community Council

### Minutes of the meeting held in Castlebay School Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 18:00

#### Present:

Brian Currie (BC) – Chair  
Paul McGuire (PMG) - Vice Chair  
Iain MacNeil (IMN) - Treasurer  
Eoin MacNeil (EMN) - Committee  
Katie Denehy (KD) - Committee  
Michael Galbraith (MG) - Committee  
Kenneth MacLean (KML) - Committee

#### In Attendance:

Cllr Donald Manford (DM)  
Monica MacKinnon – Clerk  
+ 29 Members of the community

**Apologies:** Alistair Campbell (AC) - Committee

#### 1. Welcome

BC opened the meeting at 18.00 and welcomed all present. BC went on to introduce the new CC members to those present.

#### 2. Minutes

The minutes of last meeting of ? are not ready to be approved as they need to be condensed.

**Action/s:** BC Stated he would condense the minutes.

#### 3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from last meeting.

#### Active & New Business

#### 4. Christmas Lights

BC thanked all the organisations who have been involved in raising funds and organising the Christmas lights. Funding up to the value of £2000 has been secured. CnES has stated that festoons can no longer be hung from the lampposts.

**Action/s:** It was agreed to have them displayed in Castlebay asap and for KML to speak with electrician and KD to speak with Environmental services for telehandler. Agreed to have decorations down between 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020.

#### 5. Footpaths

IMN updated group as to current situation with proposed footpath around Castlebay area. KD, on behalf of CBAB, gave an update on current communication with Calum MacKenzie (CnES) with regards to the proposed footpath in Castlebay and Herring walk extension project. Project costs for this development are estimated to be 1.4M. Claire MacNeil (CBAB) informed the group there is a current shortfall for this project

**Action/s:** IMN to follow up with Calum MacKenzie and will circulate email once reply has been received.

#### 6. Castlebay Playpark

£1,500 has been allocated to Castlebay Playpark from CnES Playpark Fund. This money needs to be match funded. It was agreed, at this present time, to defer any works regarding the playpark until more is known about the community hub. Helen MacKenzie confirmed that Vatersay Playpark currently has funding of £3000 and is working towards raising more. KD stated it is really good to see that Northbay and Vatersay playparks are going ahead, providing places for people to take their children to play.

**Actions/s:** BC will investigate suitable funding bodies.

#### 7. Roads

Concerns have been raised by members of the community with regards to numerous streetlights being broken in and around Castlebay. IMN suggests that the correct course of action is to inform the council of which ones are damaged and they contact electrician to repair.

**Action/s:** It was agreed that BC would speak with AC and ask him in his capacity as taxi driver, to note all the streetlights which are out and to report back to CC.

#### 8. Transport

A discussion took place about the current situation with regards to when the Isle of Lewis being is in dry dock and the Isle of Arran and/or Hebridean Isles being deployed to cover Castlebay- Oban route for this period.

Karen MacLean (KML) suggested reinstating the Transport Committee with chair of Northbay Community Council, Castlebay Community Council and VABV. She said it proved very useful in previous years.

**Action/s:** It was agreed for CC to push for a ministerial meeting to discuss the situation with ferries and also to re-instate the transport committee which comprises of Chair of Northbay CC, Chair of Castlebay CC, VABV and other community representatives. KML agreed to go onto the committee in an advisory capacity.

## 9. Buth Bharraigh

Buth Bharraigh had been invited to give a presentation to the CC and Sarah MacLean, the Manager, made a presentation to the group. DM following on from this presentation updated the group that a council committee decision had been made that day for the demolition of the old Co-op. The Buth had written to Chair of CC asking for the current CC to support the Buth to remain in its present location. It was agreed to seek the view of each CC member. The CC views were both for and against the Buth remaining in its current location and it was agreed that more information was required by some CC members before making a definitive decision.

### Questions were opened to the Floor:

- Concern was expressed by community members as to the transparency of CnES's decision making process and what evidence it based its findings on to recommend Demolition of the old Co-op.
- Concern was expressed as to road safety in particular the blind corner when approaching on the road from West to East.
- One previous Chair of Community Council (KML) stated that they had NOT taken the decision to have the building demolished and there are no record of this in any minutes of the CC.
- BC agreed that the CC and community need to work together to find a compromise and that a survey be done for the views of the community.

**Action/s:** KD will on behalf of the CC draw up a survey which will help ascertain communities views on this issue.  
PMG will write to CnES and ask for what evidence was provided to support the demolition of the old Co-op site.  
KML and Buth will source and place a mirror and try to start to address the road safety issue this are poses.  
DM to collaborate and push to postpone demolition and investigate further.

## 10. AOCB

There was none

## 11. Date of Next Meeting

It was suggested the next meeting will be in the 3<sup>rd</sup> of 4<sup>th</sup> week of January.

**Action/s:** BC to circulate the date of next meeting once agreed.