

## Castlebay & Vatersay Community Council

### Minutes of the meeting held in Castlebay School Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020 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:

+ 18 Members of the community  
PC Phil Farndell

#### 1. Welcome

BC opened the meeting at 18.00 and welcomed all present. KD offered to take the minutes in the absence of the clerk.

#### 2. Apologies

Apologies were given by: Cllr Donald Manford, Cllr Paul Steele, Cllr Iain MacNeil.

#### 3. Minutes

The minutes of last meeting held at Castlebay School on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019 were read and agreed to be a true reflection of the said meeting.

**Proposed by:** PMG

**Seconded by:** AC

The minutes of the previous meeting 19<sup>th</sup> August 2019 were not available at the meeting to be approved, nor were the minutes of hand-over meeting on 2.12.2019

**Action/s:** BC stated he would ensure they were provided for next meeting.

#### 4. Matters Arising

##### a) Christmas Lights

It was agreed that we need to look at using existing buildings to put up Christmas lights as old lamp posts are not suitable and to look at this at and ordering in June 2020.

##### b) Footpaths

There was no update

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

##### c) Castlebay Playpark

There was no update

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

##### d) Roads

Concerns have again 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.

##### e) Transport

This will be covered in full later in the agenda

## **f) Buth Bharraigh**

It had been agreed by the CC to draw up an island wide survey at the last CC meeting which will help ascertain communities view on whether the Buth should remain in its present location. KD agreed to conduct this survey on behalf of the CC.

KD stated that a draft survey has been worked on with consultation from other CC members and read out at the meeting the 2 questions that were to be asked. KD stated that the Chair had put a hold on this process and asked BC to explain this. BC stated that after the last meeting, he had been approached by 4 individual CC members who did not agree to the survey being conducted. The reasons they gave were that they were not happy with the wording of the survey and they were also representing community members, who were not at the meeting, who didn't agree with a survey being conducted. The process of this was questioned both by some CC members and the floor. It was agreed, after a lengthy discussion, that the process of un-actioning an action needs to be addressed at the next CC meeting and that this is following due process. It was suggested to BC, from the floor, that he needs to make a proposal to the meeting for a decision to be taken.

BC asked "Was there value for community council to conduct a survey?". It was answered by Sarah MacLean, Buth Manager, who stated that it would have been useful to have had the community survey to feed into the community responses as part of the Asset Transfer but now perhaps the window for this engagement has past.

It was agreed by the CC to shelve conducting a community survey for the time being due to the asset transfer application, but this could be revisited by the CC, if required in the future.

## **5. Financial Update**

IMN gave a financial update and currently there is £8,395 in the bank account.

## **6. UACC Meeting**

IMN stated that there is a Uist Association of Community Council where there was a meeting recently which took place in Uist.

**Action/s:** IMN agreed to post the finding of this meeting on CC facebook page.

## **7. Community conversation - Area Forum update**

KD informed the CC that there is a community conversation regarding Area Forums taking place in Barra on Tues March 17<sup>th</sup> 2020. This meeting is being chaired by Bernard Chisholm. KD has send an emailed to 3<sup>rd</sup> sector groups on Barra and Vatersay and stated that it would be good to have a wide representation from the community attending the meeting.

**Action/s:** KD agreed to put date and information on CC fb page and to also be advertised in the Guth.

## **8. Disrepair of railings on road**

A concerned community member raised an issue about old rotten railing which were in disrepair on the A888 when approaching from Kentagaval into Castlebay

**Action/s:** KML agreed to contact roads department in relation to this matter and report back to CC at next meeting

## **9. Community Hub Update**

An update was given by PMG, KD and KML in relation to the telephone conference call that took place with Bernard Chisholm on Friday February 21<sup>st</sup>2020. The purpose of this meeting was to raise the communities concern in relation to certain aspects of the new community hub. It had been agreed at this first preliminary meeting that continued dialogue will take place between Education department and the CC in relation to any concerns the community raises. The answers to all these questions were handed out to all attending this meeting and had also been posted on the CC fb page.

The questions which the community has raised were sent by the CC to Bernard Chisholm (Director of Education), Gordon Jamieson (Chief Executive NHS) and Iain MacKinnon (Director of Service & Delivery CnES).

Further discussion took place and the following concerns were raised:

### **Education concerns:**

- Barra Children Centre (BCC) building belongs to the community and has a lease of another 6 years. The directors of BCC have stated that they want the building to remain as a community building as opposed to being flattened for a carpark which is outlined in the concept plans for the new community hub. BCC directors have been communicating with Director of Education for past 12 months and have not had any answers.
- Is there going to be a dedicated tech room?
- Are classroom sizes to remain the same or will they be bigger?
- What exactly is going to happen in relation to the swimming pool. gym and games hall
- Is this community going to get whatever design the architect feel is best for the community or are we able to meet with the architect team prior to designs going to Scottish Government for consideration?

### **Hospital and Care Home concerns:**

KML has spoken extensively to residents on the island and visited Cobhair Bharraigh and been approached by many members of the community in relation to the health questions. KML stated that the proposed units are not fit for advanced dementia and there is a real concern in the community that people with dementia needs will not be able to remain in the island.

EMN, who is a member of the IJB (Integrated Joint Board of CnES/ NHS) stated that the forum has not met up for a year and he will invite a health representative to Barra for 17<sup>th</sup> March.

The CC were asked by the floor whether they have the powers to try and slow down this community hub development so there is more time to get this hub design fit for purpose for the community. CC members stated that they will do all they can with the powers that they have to meet with key representatives and highlight all the issues and concerns that have been raised so far.

The CC thanked everyone for coming forward with their concerns and asked all attending to continue to approach the CC with any further issues they have so this can be raised at future meetings.

#### **Action/s:**

##### **BC agreed to do the following:**

- Contact Cllr Donald Manford to ensure the date of the next agreed meeting is taking place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 4.30 by VC with Bernard Chisholm.
- Contact Cllr Donald Manford in relation to setting up a health board NHS meeting so all the Health care questions can be raised and discussed.
- Contact Cllr Donald Manford to ask for the Architect Brief
- Contact Director of Education and ask for a CC meeting with him when he is in Barra on 17<sup>th</sup> March and to ask for Directors of BCC to be there to help represent their views.

##### **EMN agreed to do:**

- EMN to try and get Health Representative to Barra for Tues 17<sup>th</sup> March when Director of Education is here.
- Publish hub updates in the Guth

##### **KD agreed to do:**

- Put dates of meetings up on fb page and to also go in the Guth

### **10. Community Consultation**

**Action/s:** To be put on the agenda of the next meeting

### **11. Depletion of mental health services**

KD shared a CLD Community needs analysis report which highlighted a reduction of services in particular in Health and it was discussed what approach could the CC take to help address the reduction of these services.

**Action/s:** EMN to raise these identified needs at the next IGP meeting. This will be a public meeting so the date will be advertised in advance for any members of the community to attend.

### **12. Dog Fouling in and around Castlebay**

A concerned member of the community raised the issue of dog fouling in and around Castlebay

**Action/s:** PC Phil Farndell stated that he would contact environmental health in relation to dog poo bins and signage.

### **13. Calmac update**

BC reported back on the ministerial meeting with Paul Wheelhouse, Minister of Connectivity and Transport for Scottish parliament. BC stressed the importance of Barra remaining the primary port status and the fact that there has been no draft circulated of the ferry plan which would be for the next ten years. BC updated the group in-regards to looking further into the feasibility of operating and running a ferry by ourselves and discussions have began looking into this. BC also stated that at the ministerial meeting, it was agreed that the Isle of Arran and Hebridean Isles were not fit for purpose to service Barra and the suggestion of using MV FINLAGGAN has been suggested to CalMac as a better alternative vessel. It was suggested by PMG to try and form a united front with different reps from the islands which could put pressure on the Scottish Government as a collective.

**Action/s:** It was agreed EMN would organise a Transportation committee so it can be re-established again and for further discussions to take place about creating a Declaration of Intent. The Transportation Committee would also invite Karen MacLean to attend in an advisory capacity (agreed at the previous CC meeting).

**Action/s:** BC to continue with dialogue with Calmac.

### **14. Graveyard erosion**

A resident approached BC to express concern as the rapidly encroaching erosion at the back of Cuithir graveyard. BC went to take a look and this needs to be reported to the Comhairle as there is a real possibility of the graveyard being eroded.

**Action/s:** KD agreed to contact Environmental Officer and will also take photos of current erosion.

### **15. Facebook page update**

New CC facebook page has been set up and is being used as a point of information. Positive feedback has been given by the community. KD stated that in last 28 days, there has been 713 views of the page.

**Action/s:** To continue to use page for information sharing and dates for meetings.

## **16. AOCB**

### **a) Road Safety Leaflets**

MG asked about printing out more Road safety leaflets to be sent to all hotels/ BB's and to be displayed in public places.

**Action/s:** EMN agreed to do this.

**Action/s:** BC agreed to contact NCC to ask about splitting printing costs.

### **b) HIAL update**

MG gave an update in-regards to HIAL and Barra has just under 1500 passengers using the plane in 2019. This is down by 201 passengers from 2018. CC in agreement with the additional 24 flights Barra has been allocated over the summer.

### **c) Funding request**

KD raised a query from a parent who is looking for financial assistance to help bring dance teachers to the island

**Action/s:** CC agreed for KD to get more information and to ask what community organisation this is operating under.

### **d) Marine Engagement Event**

Sarah MacLean said she had received information about a Marine Engagement Event on 9/10 March and they were wanting a cross section of the community to get involved. She had already sent the information to KD will share with CC.

### **e) Process**

The CC agreed that there can be no changes made to any action/s minuted until the next CC meeting. KML stated that the CC has to follow procedures as outlined in the Scottish Government document called Community Guidance Good Practice Guidance.

## **17. Date of next meeting**

It was proposed by KD to meet once a month, like all other CC's. It was agreed to meet for next 3 months on the last Wednesday of each month and then if need be to review it.

### **Dates of Next Meetings:**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March @6pm**

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April @6pm**

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May @6pm**

Meeting closed at 9pm and BC thanked everyone for coming along