

Castlebay & Vatersay Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held via zoom on Tues 30th June 2020 at 19.00

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
Alastair Campbell (AC) – Committee
Mark Wilcox (MW) - Committee

In Attendance:

PC Phil Fardell
Cllr Donald Manford

1. Welcome

BC opened the meeting at 19.00 and welcomed all present. KD offered to take the minutes.

2. Apologies

There were no apologies

3. Minutes

The hand-over minutes of meeting 2.12.2019 were read and agreed.

Proposed by; PMQ

Seconded by; EMN

The minutes of last meeting held at Castlebay School on 24th February 2020 were read and agreed to be a true reflection of the said meeting.

Proposed by: KD

Seconded by: MG

4. Matters Arising

a) Christmas Lights

Agreed to use same lights as last year and to put on agenda in 2 meetings time

Action/s:

- AC will gather up all lights and do an Inventory

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

Due to new hub plans, it was agreed that BC would ask Bernard Chisolm as to what the future vision is for Castlebay playpark.

Action/s:

- BC will find out more details by seeking clarification from Bernard Chisolm.

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. It was agreed now with the long daylight that to ascertain the lights that don't work will need some-one to do a detailed assessment from midnight onwards. BC asked PC Fardell for his thoughts and it was agreed that PC Fardell would follow this up.

Action/s:

- PC Fardell to follow up and report back to CC

It was also discussed the state of the roads in regards to the quality of repairs in particular the use of blacktop.

Action/s:

- AC to identify the poor areas on the road and DM to raise this with the roads department in the council.

e) **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. KML has submitted a report to the council highlighting this and had heard nothing back which may have been due to present situation with Covid-19. KML has submitted a further report and is waiting to hear back from council

Action/s:

- KML agreed to follow up with this.

f) **Community Hub Update**

Donald Manford gave a brief overview of Capital Programme Review report by Director, Asset & Finances Resources 24th June 2020. Donald referred to section 3.1 a and 3.1. d and highlighted the fact that the Full business plan with costings needs to be submitted by the Comhairle/ Health by Oct 2020 to be approved by Scottish Government November 2020.

3.1a; It is recommended that the Comhairle agree to (a) fund up to £7m of additional capital to deliver the objectives of the 2018-23 Capital programme from Prudential Borrowing for the final year of the programme.

3.1.d; review the programme following the 2021/22 and 2022/23 Local Government Settlements

Covid-19 Resilience Barra Group was set up as a directive from the Comhairle during the pandemic and this group has met weekly and comprises of council officials/ Health/ Hub Liaison officer/ 2 Chairs of CC's and 3rd sector groups. These meetings have now changed to once every 3 weeks and the focus is now on the community hub and the setting up of an Economic Advisory group. Over the next 4-6 weeks a programme of Community Engagement workshops will be conducted by Ryder Architects. Initially some organisations will participate with online workshops. A survey has been sent to all school children and parents. There will be further opportunities for wider community input also.

Action/s:

- Donald and EMN to continue updating community with progress and all information to be printed in the guth bharragh

g) **Hospital/ Care Home concerns**

Since March 2020, which was the onset of Covid-19 lockdown, the regular meetings that were due to take place fortnightly between the CC's with council and health officials ceased taking place. Covid-19 core groups were established through-out the Western Isles and this took precedent and priority over most other matters.

The Social and Health Care questions which the community raised to the CC had been sent to Bernard Chisholm (Director of Education), Gordon Jamieson (Chief Executive NHS) and Iain MacKinnon (Director of Service & Delivery CnES) but to date there has been no definitive answers. CC members have raised this matter with the Covid-19 group and Bernard Chisolm and an assurance has been given by Bernard Chisolm that he would follow up with health the questions that have been asked.

EMN stated from VABV/ 3RD Sector point of view that there is not enough information coming out from the Health Board. There has been numerous attempts to gain more information but it is simply not forthcoming. KD agreed this with and asked could we get answers from Health as a matter of priority. The CC all agreed that it was imperative to try and engage with Health representatives again and asked Donald to set up another meeting.

GP Mark Wilcox stated that he is due to have a meeting with health to discuss the present situation of the Covid-19 ward being in Castlebay School games hall. MW will relay any information he gets back to the CC in regards to this.

Action/s:

- KML agreed to sending out social and health care questions again to same representatives as before and also to include Covid-19 health issues questions.
- DMF agreed to liaise with Health to set up a meeting to discuss the issues raised by the community
- EMN agreed to set up a IJB meeting and to also highlight the depletion of mental health services as well as include IJB in meeting with health representatives.
- MW to update CC in-regards to Health board decision about Covid-19 ward in games hall.

h) **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 Farnell stated he has acquired signage which he will be rotating around different areas of Barra & Vatersay. Presently the banners and signage is at Northbay playpark.
- PC Farnell stated he asked for more bins but was told that Barra & Vatersay had sufficient bins. PC Farnell agreed however to ask for more bins again as there are some areas we have on the island without them.
EMN agreed to put info in the Guth regarding to report to Lisa Johnston, Environmental Health officer.

i) Calmac update

It was agreed to put on next agenda as still trying to get ministerial visit to the island. Transport committee to date has not been set up and it was agreed by the CC that this was needed in order to have effective clout when representing the needs and wishes of the island. Previous Transport committee comprised of Chair of 2 CC's, ward Cllr, Business's & Hauliers

Action/s:

- BC and DM to continue with the potential ministerial visit and continue with dialogue with Calmac,
- DM and EMN would organise a Transportation committee so it can be re-established again.

j) 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 contacted Iain Campbell, Communities Department, Council who has put pegs to be placed and to monitor further erosion. Scottish water has also been notified as there is pipework near this site. Feedback will be given to both Castlebay and Nothbay CC by Ian Campbell.

5. Financial Update

IMN gave a financial update and currently there is £9794.69. Recent grant received from SEEN of £1505 has been distributed to Cobhair Bharraigh, Garadh, Beitrus Bharraigh, Food bank, Padulas' and Barra Gin.

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:

- BC asked for the CC to have a presence at these meetings if possible.

7. Speeding in and around Horve

Concern has been raised by residents living in Horve as to the speed of cars driving past residents houses. There is a request for signage to be placed and for speed protection measures to take place.

Action/s;

- PC Farndell stated that he will have a speed protection camera on Barra within the next week and the police will be targeting different areas on the island.
- PMQ to liaise with PC Farndell in relation to getting signage for Horve. Contact to be made with Angus MacDonald, Roads Department, Comhairle.

8. King George Land

Brief overview was given by PMG that the King George IV land in Castlebay has been eroded over the years and the only green space left is the grass football pitch. Concern was raised that in Covid-19 minutes it was stated that the Sports Forum had 2 options (a) to proceed alone with their plans (b) to be included in the campus project but made aware that there are budget restrictions and will be operated as an educational facility similar to Lionacleit and Stornoway. This information is misleading and inaccurate as the Comhairle has the asset on the wasteland and there is no viable options left for the sports forum to go alone. PMG and KD spoke about the aspirations being to build a 7 aside and there was at no point on the table ever any suggestion or option to replace the grass pitch. The Sports forum have continued to lobby for a training pitch to be included and to be an additional resource as opposed to taking away the only green space Castlebay has.

Action/s;

- BC asked PMG and KD to formulate a question to be presented to the Covid-19/ Hub group in-regards to this.

9. Economic Recovery Group

The aim is to set up a local based economic recovery group which aims to support all types of businesses, third Sector and communities within the Western Isles following the Covid-19 pandemic. Economic Advisory group comprises of Joe Macphee, Economic development officer, Chair of 2 CC's, Hub Liaison Officer and VABV whose aim is to facilitate meetings to the following sectors; (a) Transportation/ Construction (b) Tourism – including Food & Drink (c) Fishing (d) Manufacturing/ Export/ Retail. The aim is to be inclusive and to make a schedule to invite all sectors of that particular industry to meet to discuss what further support can be given to help aid economic recovery on the islands. All info will be put into Guth Bharraigh. Contact is Marion MacNeil.

10. Herring Walk

IMN has been approached by Donnie MacNeil to seek help with improving the look of the Herring walk. This would involve removing the old Barrell's and replacing them with new barrell's which have been funded by WILL lottery via CBAB. Presently the herring walk resides with VABV with the aim to hand over the lease to CBAB.

Action/s;

It was agreed to contribute £300 towards helping purchase hard shell for the path and to approach CBAB and ask for £300 to also be contributed. IMN to liaise with Donnie.

11. Causeway slip maintenance

PMG gave a brief overview that the Vatersay causeway has no maintenance. There are no tyres on both sides of the pier, no wheelie bibs or bollards. The water hoses are in poor condition and there is much concern expressed by the local users as to the total disrepair and neglect of the slipway.

Action/s;

- PMG agreed to write a letter which will be sent to Harbour master and also Joe MacPhee.

12. AOCB

a) HIAL update

MG gave an update in-regards to HIAL. Barra's numbers are down by 95%. 140 passengers have used this service so far this year to end of May compared to 2909 for the same period in 2009 last year. Timetabling by Loganair are continually being reviewed, either on a fortnightly or monthly basis.

b) Funding request

AC asked whether there was any help the CC could give towards the Barra Golf club. A new mover has just been purchased and due to Covid-19 lockdown there has been no income made on course fees. It was agreed that the CC would fund £500 towards the club to help support them.

c) Road Safety Leaflets

It was agreed to do leaflets later in the year as we are part way through the year. PMG suggested getting a small group of people interested in helping and it was agreed PMG and EMN would meet to discuss further.

Action/s:

- EMN and PMG to meet to discuss further the creation of a roadsafety leaflet and to include any other interested members of the community.

d) CBAB updates on projects

MG agreed to invite CBAB to next meeting to give updates on projects.

e) Accommodation query

Feis Bharraigh wrote to CC requesting information about school space and accommodation to host Barra Feis 2021. KD agreed to contact Feis and help support this further.

Date of next meeting:

Tues 28th July @7pm