

## Castlebay & Vatersay Community Council

### Minutes of the meeting held via zoom on Tues 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at 19.00

#### Present:

Paul McGuire (PMG) - Vice Chair  
Iain MacNeil (IMN) - Treasurer  
Katie Denehy (KD) - Committee  
Michael Galbraith (MG) - Committee  
Kenneth MacLean (KML) – Committee  
Mark Wilcox (MW) - Committee  
Theresa Irvine (TI) - Chair of Northbay CC

#### In Attendance:

PC Phil Fardell  
Cllr Iain MacNeil  
Plus 2 community members

#### 1. Welcome

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

#### 2. Apologies

Brian Currie (BC) – Chair  
Eoin MacNeil (EMN) – Committee  
Alastair Campbell (AC) – Committee  
Mark Wilcox (MW) - Committee

#### 3. Minutes

It was agreed to go through the notes of last meeting and merge these with the minutes of this meeting.

#### 4. Matters Arising

##### a) Footpaths

IG spoke with Calum MacKenzie who has sourced funding to lay a temporary pavement for the sides of the road in Castlebay that are without pavements. This is a short-term measure and the long term plan is to create proper pavements once new school is built. Calum MacKenzie was unable to give a date on these proposed works.

**Action/s:** IMN to continue follow up with Calum MacKenzie

##### b) Herring Walk

**Action/s;** It was agreed at last meeting to arrange a meeting between IMN, Euan Scott and CnES to discuss further developments in relation to the Herring walk extension.

##### c) Roads

**Action/s;** It was agreed at previous meeting AC to identify the poor areas on the roads and DM agreed to raise this issue with the roads department

##### d) 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:** It was agreed at previous meeting for BC will find out more details by seeking clarification from Bernard Chisolm.

##### e) Streetlights and roads

PC Fardell has followed this up with CnEs and is asking for both community councils to write letter of support to help improve the day to day life and safety of residents of Barra & Vatersay.

**Action/s;** PMQ agreed to write letter of support.

##### f) Calmac update

No updates given. It was asked whether the road safety posters as agreed at previous meeting have been put onto ferries. It was also raised that there was a query made in regards to the viability of Gas being delivered to the island once a month and whether it can be looked at rerouting the Mallaig run to Barra with gas since this is a essential lifeline for many people on the island. It was agreed this query should go to the economic Recovery group and Transportation committee.

#### **Action/s;**

- TI agreed to highlight this at next Economic Recovery meeting and for EMN to follow up with Calmac board which he sits on.
- From previous minutes – BC and DM to continue with the potential ministerial visit and to continue dialogue with Calmac
- EMN to follow up road safety leaflets to be displayed onto ferries.

### **g) Transport Committee**

No update from previous meeting. It was agreed at previous meeting to reinstate the Transport committee.

**Action/s;** DM and EMN would re-establish Transportation committee so it can be re-established again. TI agreed to call a meeting

### **h ) Vatersay Causeway**

PMG has been in touch with Kenny Morrison and highlighted the following issues which have been identified by local fishermen who use Vatersay causeway;

- Missing tyre fenders on both jetties with large bolts causing a hazard to berthing and the landing of catch.
- Loose bollards in need of realignment.
- Inability to re-fuel on West side unless at high tide, which could be solved with use of detachable extension hose.
- A much needed commercial wheelie bin balanced on 3 wheels since being added last year making it difficult to use .
- A general lack of progress in facilities since the initial building of the jetties 30 years ago.

Questions also asked were;

- Can you advise on the maintenance schedule for these jetties and as a matter of urgency progress the replacement of the berthing tyres before serious damage is caused to a vessel and to prevent any more catch being lost?
- Can you also advise on any plans for investment in the jetties in the Castlebay and Vatersay area for use by commercial fisherman, particularly in respect of enhancing safety of vessels using both sides of the Vatersay Causeway?

**Action/s;** PMG will continue to follow up in regards to above issues

### **I) King George Land**

2 Questions have been submitted to Covid group but no answers have been given by Bernard Chisolm yet. These questions were;

1. Will the current pitch be replaced with an All Weather Pitch
2. Will the trees be removed or kept

TI explained that the structure of the Covid-19 group is no longer operational and has now reformed into Economic Recovery forum. It was agreed however to continue to follow up these questions with Bernard Chisolm. 2 representatives from the sports forum have been invited to be part of consultation in regards to the future development of the sports facilities for Barra & Vatersay so these questions can also be raised during these discussions.

**Action/s;** PMG to follow up

### **j) Update Covid/ Economy Committee**

It was agreed that this forum required wider community representation and there was a need to promote the aims of this forum to the community and to also include terms of reference. TI who sits on the Economic recovery forum stated she has asked for a central place for all previous minutes to be accessed by the community and she will put out more info about this forum. It was agreed that there was a lack of representation from all businesses across all the sectors on the island and for this forum to be effective, it needed more people to be part of it. It was also stated that the timing of the meetings may not be suitable for numerous sectors in the community and perhaps this is why there is such little representation.

**Action/s;** TI to put out more info to both community councils and also the Guth and will be encouraging wider participation from the community.

### **k) Hub update**

All the social and care home issues which were raised by the community were collated by KML who has made contact with representatives in Health and Cnes including elected members. MSP Alasdair Allan received a letter back which only answered the health care questions but not the social care questions.

**Action/s;**

- It was agreed Cllr Iain MacNeil will liaise with KML to follow up with any more questions and send to all key representatives again seeking clarification on the answers. It was agreed to send the social care questions to Malcolm Burr and also Jack Libby.
- DM 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

### **5. Campervans**

Concern has been raised by numerous community residents both to CC members and on social media as to the detrimental affect of allowing campervans to park up in layby's. It was discussed the viability of introducing a byelaw and TI stated that Cllr Uisdean Robertson is looking into this on behalf of Western Isles wide. Presently we have 5 campsites on the island which are open and it was agreed that the majority of campervans were using these facilities which is encouraging. It was agreed that each individual township have the powers to put up signs regarding overnight parking and that this issue requires further discussion with townships and campsite owners.

**Action/s;** TI and KD to follow this up.

## 6. Bins

It was discussed about there not being enough bins on the island but the council are saying that the islands of Barra & Vatersay have enough bins. KD stated that she had been working with the young people who had identified that littering was an issue and the young people were going to identify areas where they thought the island needed more bins. This was more in-regards to walking on beaches and when seeing litter on the beaches. This was prior to Covid-19 lockdown. KD agreed to speak with young people again to discuss this further.

**Action/s;** It was agreed PC Farndell would follow this up with local refuse collectors and Cllr Iain MacNeil will also make enquiries as he was able to get more bins in Uist.

## 7. Ferry North Route

Concern was expressed as to the proposed reduction of engine power being muted about for re-engining of the Loch Alainn on the Ardmhor - Eriskay route. It has been spoken that there may be as much as a 40% reduction in engine Power if new engines are fitted. Community Council members are concerned on how this will affect service reliability during Winter months and if any effect on the passage times between Ardmhor and Eriskay. This has been raised by BC and Cllr Manford and a response has been received by Findlay MacRae

**Action/s;** BC to follow up and Cllr Iain MacNeil to help also.

## 8. Financial Update

IMN gave a financial update and currently there is £8061.16. 2 recipients of the previous grant have not yet cashed their cheque.

## 9. AOCB

(a) Christmas decorations – agreed to put this on next agenda so there is plenty time for planning. It was suggested to form a Christmas lights group of interested people to take forward the planning of Christmas decorations and lights.

(b) It was agreed to advertise for a clerk for the CC.

**Action/s;** KD agreed to advertise.

(c) Covid-19 Unit; It was agreed PMG and TI would both write to Health Board requesting confirmation of location of Covid Unit.

**Action/s;** PMG and TI to follow up with health board

(d) PC Farndell offered to give brief monthly police report and any other police matters. It was agreed that this would be welcome at each meeting and to be put on Agenda.

**Action/s;** PC Farndell to produce monthly police briefing report for CC

## **Date of next meeting;**

Tues 28<sup>th</sup> September @ 7pm.