

## Castlebay & Vatersay Community Council DRAFT

### Minutes of the meeting held via zoom on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 19.00

#### Present:

Paul McGuire (PMG) - Vice Chair  
Eoin MacNeil (EMN) – Committee  
Michael Galbraith (MG) - Committee  
Iain MacNeil (IMN) - Treasurer  
Katie Denehy (KD) - Committee  
Mark Wilcox (MW) - Committee

#### In Attendance:

PC Phil Farndell

#### 1. Welcome

PMG opened the meeting at 19.00, welcomed all present and chaired the meeting. In the absence of having a clerk, KD offered to take the minutes.

#### 2. Apologies

Cllr Iain MacNeil  
Cllr Donald Manford  
Alastair Campbell (AC) - Committee  
Kenneth MacLean (KML) – Committee

#### 3. Minutes

Minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020 were agreed on.  
Proposed by EMN  
Seconded by Michael Galbraith

#### 4. Matters Arising

##### a) Playpark

Query raised as to whether Playpark is included in new hub plans. It was agreed to get clarification as to the park being repositioned and for the CC to ask what improvements are to be made regarding repositioning to help alleviate drainage. CC agreed we want a playpark fit for purpose within the campus. Cllr Donald Manford has written to Iain MacKinnon seeking clarification. A response has been given by Calum MacKenzie stating that Iain MacKinnon is seeking clarification from the design team on the future of the play park and any consideration required during construction.

CC agreed that this response needed further clarification.

**Action/s;** Cllr Donald Manford to further request more detailed clarity on the playpark positioning within the new hub.

**Action/s;** EMN attends a community benefit Hub group and agreed to suggest the playpark as a potential community benefit.

##### b) Streetlights & Roads.

Concern has been raised by numerous residents in regards to the lack of street lights in certain areas on the island. Concern was also raised at the disrepair of one street light in Horve which looks as if it is due to fall over. PC Farndell submitted letters on behalf of Police, Fire Brigade and both Community Councils to head of Assets in regards to the lack of street lighting. An email has been sent from head of Assets agreeing that streetlights will be on until 2.30am. This is a positive result, and it was acknowledged by the CC the hard work done by PC Farndell in pursuing this issue. The broken lamp at No 11 St Brendan's has now been inspected and Tech services have reported that when Covid restrictions allow, this lamppost will be replaced. PC Farndell is in communication with the roads department in relation to the speed limit changes in Castlebay area and will continue to follow up. It was also brought up the 20mph notice in the Guth and it was asked who is leading on this? It was agreed for the CC to find this out and to ask the CC to be involved in community consultation in regards to this.

**Action/s;** Agreed to take streetlights off the Agenda.

**Action/s;** PC Farndell will follow up in regards to speed limit changes in Castlebay area.

**Action/s;** PMG to seek more information from Tech services in regards to including CC in any proposed speed changes in Castlebay. PMG and PC Farndell to liaise with this.

##### c) CalMac

Transport forum are looking for a meeting with Transport Scotland in regards to vessel choice and ongoing concerns. EMN shared information about the proposed vessel replacement & investment proposed for building new boats. EMN will put this information in the Guth also.

**Action/s;** Cllr DM/ BC agreed to follow up on their invitation to explain Calmac decision making on vessel choice

**Action/s;** EMN to build on more discussions with Calmac in-regards to flexible use of timetable and to engage in principle on having a banking system.

#### d) **Vatersay Causeway**

PMG reported that finding application has been submitted to Crown Estate round for feasibility to be conducted on enhancing and improving facilities at Vatersay causeway.

**Action/s;** Cllr DM agreed to engage in dialogue with CnES to help identify safe storage for the kreenles.

#### e) **Covid Group update**

EMN reported that the Covid group has been meeting daily for the last 3 weeks due to the break out of Covid cases on the island. Latterly the meetings are Monday, Wednesday and Friday. This group has been managing information and doing regular updates to keep community informed using social media as well as Guth Bharraigh. Corbhair Bharraigh service has been utilised for home deliveries. NHS is using all the vaccines coming in and the uptake for vaccinations is very high with only a recorded 1% wastage.

Western Isles received 6 tonnes of food in food boxes which are distributed to all islands and it is recognised that there is an efficient local service through Rev Lyndsey and Citizen Advice for distributing food boxes as well as Fuel vouchers to people who are in need.

**Action/s;** BC/ EMN to give updates on forum to CC

#### f) **Hub Update**

Cllr Donald Manford was not at meeting to give update.

CC discussed and agreed that there was a lack of information and a breakdown in communication from the council to the community in regards to the decant proposals and the implications this has on local residents and disruption to services. There is a Council led Decant working group who meet weekly and proposals are being considered as to where the decant is located and also if there are suitable community buildings that can be used for classroom teaching and PE.

CC agreed that a meeting needs to be set up between the CC and Iain Mackinnon and the design team within the next 2 weeks to get clarity on many aspects of the Decant proposals and this can be shared widely with the community. It was acknowledged that information was going into the Guth Bharraigh in regards to the proposals but agreed that a meeting was needed with the CC.

The Sports forum met with 3 ward Cllrs expressing concern as to the real implications that the island community may be without a swimming pool, Gym, Games Hall for a period of 24 months during the decant period. Representation of these concerns have also been made to MSP Alasdair Allan and MP Angus MacNeil. Sports forum continue to be in dialogue with Iain MacKinnon in regards to this.

**Action/s;** EMN agreed to write to Iain MacKinnon and ask for a meeting with the CC.

**Action/s;** EMN to raise helipad issue at consultation and feedback.

#### g) **Campervans**

Concern has been raised by residents in-regards to campervans parking in layby's and in other parts of Barra & Vatersay and not using the campsites. Cllr Uisdean Robertson has submitted a report to the council looking at the viability of introducing a by-law which will ensure all campervans have to go to a designated campsite.

**Action/s;** Cllr DM has written seeking more information and is still waiting for a response.

#### h) **Medical Practice Update**

Cllr Donald Manford submitted an FOI to the Health board in relation to the Western Isles Health board's decision which was that the Barra medical practice will no longer have the contract for providing Out of hours GP service for St Brendan's or providing 24/7 cover for GP practice out of hours. FOI has been returned and is being shared with the medical practice first. It was also discussed the erosion of social & health care posts which has been lost to the island over the last decade. This was highlighted recently by a local resident and also in a National paper. It was agreed that a way forward would be to write to MSP Alasdair Allan outlining all these concerns and then copy the letter to the Scottish Health minister. KD and MWC agreed to take on this task.

**Action/s;** DM to ask for meeting with Chief Executive.

**Action/s;** EMN and MWC agreed to write to Cabinet health Secretary.

**Action/s;** KD and MWC to outline all issues in letter to MSP Alasdair Allan/ NHS Health board/ Scottish Minister.

#### **5. Request to consider reducing Sound of Barra's sailing during Covid.**

Email request came from a community member asking the CC to consider reducing the Sound of Barra Ferry's sailings from 5 to 3 during Covid. CC discussed this issue in length and voted unanimously to keep to the 5 daily sailings.

**Action/s;** PMG to email community member and relay this information.

#### **6. Crown Estate funding applications for Barra & Vatersay**

Numerous applications have been made to the Crown Estate Revenue fund. Ward 1 Councilors met and agreed that there would be a 40/60% split between Barra and Uist applications which equates to £66,000 allocated at Barra & Vatersay. Delegation for decision making for these applications will be with the area forum. Cllr Donald Manford seeking further clarification in regards to the process.

#### **7. Isle of Lewis Ferry change of Time table request**

Barratlantic have approached both community councils asking for support in regards to changing the time of the Isle of Lewis from 7.45am to 7am daily. This is to ensure all fresh produce arrive at Larkhall in Glasgow at the cut off point of 3pm. This is new Brexit regulations which have come into force for all seafood produce being exported to Europe. It was agreed that a further meeting would be arranged with representatives from Barratlantic and the CC to discuss further.

**Action/s;** BC agreed to set up a meeting within the next week

#### **8. Police Report**

There have been different fraud's/ attempted fruads and to help combat this Police Scotland information has gone into the Guth highlighted these scams.

#### **9. Financial update**

IG reported the CC current balance stands at £7370.66

#### **10. AOCB**

(a) In the absence of a paid clerk, KD has agreed to do the minutes voluntarily and each month chooses a charity to donate CC's allocated clerk payment. Donations have been made to Maggie's Centre and Mikey's line of £60 each.

(b) BC asked if there was anyone who could do a summary sheet of all the work the CC has been involved in.

**Action/s;** KD agreed to do this and will send round to other CC members when done.

#### **Date of next meeting;**

Tuesday 23<sup>RD</sup> February 2021. Time 7pm.