

Castlebay & Vatersay Community Council DRAFT

Minutes of the meeting held via zoom on Tuesday 23rd February 2021

Present:

Brian Currie (BC) – Chair
Paul McGuire (PMG) - Vice Chair
Eoin MacNeil (EMN) – Committee
Katie Denehy (KD) – Committee
Asti Campbell (AC) - Committee

In Attendance:

PC Phil Fardell
John MacDougall
Donald MacLean
Claire MacNeil
John MacLean
Eoin Boyd
Kristie Boyd

1. Welcome

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

2. Apologies

Cllr Iain MacNeil
Cllr Donald Manford
Cllr Iain MacNeil
Mark Wilcox (MW) - Committee
Michael Galbraith (MG) - Committee
Kenneth MacLean (KML) – Committee
Iain MacNeil (IMN) - Treasurer

3. Minutes

Minutes of 26th January 2021 were agreed on.
Proposed by AC
Seconded by PMG

4. Matters Arising

a) Playpark - stay on agenda

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.

b) Streetlights & Roads - stay on agenda

PC Fardell has been in dialogue with Angus MacDonald in regards to the speed calming measures. Proposal is for speed restrictions of 20 mph to be introduced between Horve and Craigard for a period of 12 months and then reviewed. CC in agreement with this. IMN in a written report stated that the latest update is that the Council have obtained some funding to create a modest hard standing section at the side of the road which would allow greater space for pedestrians to walk alongside the A888. The pedestrian walkway will be 1.2 metres and any sections which protrude onto the road will be segregated by barriers. There are still sections which have not been included in this upgrade and this has been highlighted by IMN to the council.

Action/s; IMN to continue to give updates on this development.

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

c) CalMac

BC updated CC in regards to the ongoing issues with vessel choice and ferries not being fit for purpose. Concern also raised that it has been portrayed in the media that Castlebay pier is not suitable for overnight berthing and the concern is that this will allow Transport Scotland to downscale the pier to be a secondary port.

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 - stay on agenda**

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

Action/s; PMG to continue to give updates.

e) **Covid Group update- stay on agenda**

BC stated that Barra & Vatersay has a slightly higher % of administered vaccinations than in other areas in Western Isles and that the uptake has been very high. EMN stated he has requested figures from Gordon Jamieson who did not wish to give figures but gave a generic statement. EMN agreed to share this with the CC.

Action/s; EMN to continue to liaise with WINHS in regards to vaccination figures.

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

f) **Hub Update- stay on agenda**

Cllr Donald Manford was not at meeting as involved in setting council budgets.

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.

EMN raised with Iain MacKinnon (IMK) the request to have a meeting with the CC and IMK agreed to this although no date has been set. EMN agreed to get a date for the CC to meet. This is 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 regard to the proposals but agreed that a meeting was needed with the CC.

2 members of the Sports forum have been invited to attend the Sports facilities working group which are due to meet with IMK and the design team next week. It has been expressed by many members of the community as to the real impact there will be on people's mental & physical health if the island is left without a swimming pool, Gym, Games Hall for a period of 24 months during the decant period. Representation of these concerns have already been made to MSP Alasdair Allan and MP Angus MacNeil.

EMN stated he has not raised the issue of the location of the helipad and it was agreed BC would push this forward with IMK and design team.

CC also agreed that all Community halls need to be retained and protected for community use and not to be absorbed into the decant proposals.

Action/s; EMN agreed to get a date for CC to meet with Iain MacKinnon and ask for a meeting with the CC.

Action/s; BC/DM to raise helipad location and feedback before next meeting.

g) **Campervans- stay on agenda**

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- stay on agenda**

It was agreed at last CC meeting that KD and MWC would write a letter detailing concerns raised by the community in regard to eradication of social and health care posts as well as out of hours cover for St Brendan's and Medical practice. Letter has been sent to MSP Alasdair Allan (including all local groups, IJB board, Social & Health locality planning group, ward Cllr's and MSP's for Highlands & Islands) asking for clarification on all the concerns highlighted.

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

Action/s; EMN and MWC to meet and jointly write to Cabinet health Secretary.

5. Crown Estate funding applications for Barra & Vatersay

Delegation for decision making for these applications will be with the area forum comprising of 2 representatives for each CC and Ward Cllr's.

6. Isle of Lewis Ferry change of Time table request

Barratlantic have approached both community councils asking for support in regard 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. Following on from a further meeting with both CC's and Barratlantic, it was recognised that there were wider implications to many businesses if these changes took place so it was agreed for both CC's to conduct an island wide community survey which would ascertain the Communities views on this.

177 people took part in the surveyMonkey which is confidential and anonymous and when asked are you in agreement with the change of the ferry time from 8am to 7 am, 134 answered Yes and 33 answered no and 5 answered other. Since the survey results, some members of the hospitality sector have approached BC requesting the CC arrange a meeting directly with Finley so their views can be heard as they are not in agreement with the fairness of the survey. It was agreed by the CC that an island wide survey was conducted, and this gave everyone the opportunity to have an input but if anyone wished to contact Finley they could do so directly to make representation. BC agreed to let members of the community know this and also Finley.

It was agreed the way forward was to have a meeting with Finley to discuss the results and for the decision to lie jointly with both CC's as to the best way forward. Survey results have been shared on CC fb page and in Guth Bharriagh and it was also agreed that anyone could contact CC to ask for the survey comments. BC has shared survey and comments with Finley, Calmac.

7. Police Report - get info from Phil

8. Transportation Committee

It was agreed to resurrect the Transportation committee which is recognised by the Scottish Government as a constituted body. It was agreed the need to invite all people involved in haulage and transport on the island. CC agreed the need for this committee to be set up and BC agreed to set up a meeting and advertise this widely in the community

Action/s; BC agreed to call a meeting with all representatives involved in haulage and transport including 2 chairs of the CC's to resurrect the Transportation committee.

9. Christmas Lights

It had been raised that there were some lights outside the Barra Children Centre which were seen to be hazard. AC agreed to uplift these. It was agreed the remaining lights will be removed when Covid restrictions allow.

10. Ditches flooding in and around Horve

It was raised by PMG that the ditches in and around Horve have not been cleaned for years and there is overgrown brambles and weeds covering some of the paths as well as the ditches overflowing with excess water due to the recent high rain fall. It was that PMG would report this to Calum MacKenzie in the first instance and highlight the fact that these ditches have not been cleaned in at least many years. PMG will include photos to evidence this. It was agreed that the CC would contribute costs towards getting a small digger into this area to help remove the worst of the overgrowth which will also help ease the accumulation of excess water in some areas.

Action/s; PMG to arrange for digger and helpers to cut back the overgrowth and dig the ditches. KD offered to help also.

11. Bus service to Vatersay

It had been raised by several members of the community if there was a timetabled service to Vatersay. Eoin Boyd, new contractor for public bus service, stated that there were 3 buses a day to Vatersay on request. This was really helpful to know and this info will be put in the Guth. **EB, bus contractor** also offered to contact the council to get new timetables which VAVB agreed to print for local B&B's and hotels, shops and cafés.

AOCB;

(a) KD choose donation for this month's Clerk duties to go to Eilidh's Trust

(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 when time allows and will send round to other CC members when done.

12. Financial update

IG reported the CC current balance stands at £7335.94 of which £1500 of these funds are ring fenced for money awarded towards playpark renovations.

Date of next meeting;

Tuesday 30th March 7pm.