

## Castlebay & Vatersay Community Council DRAFT

### Minutes of the meeting held via zoom on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021

#### Present:

Brian Currie (BC) – Chair  
Paul McGuire (PMG) - Vice Chair  
Michael Galbraith (MG) - Committee  
Kenneth MacLean (KML) – Committee  
Mark Wilcox (MW) - Committee  
Eoin MacNeil (EMN) – Committee  
Katie Denehy (KD) – Committee  
Asti Campbell (AC) – Committee  
Mark Wilcox (MW) - Committee

#### In Attendance:

PC Suzie Felicity  
Cllr Iain MacNeil  
John MacDougall  
Donald MacLean  
John MacLean  
Eoin 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. Position of Clerk has been filled and new clerk to CC will start next month.

#### 2. Apologies

Cllr Iain MacNeil  
Cllr Donald Manford  
Iain MacNeil (IMN) - Treasurer

#### 3. Minutes

Minutes of 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 were agreed on.  
Proposed by EMN  
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;** For this action point to stay on Agenda and be raised by CC members who attend Sports working group( PMG and IG) and Community Benefit meetings (EMN). 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 updated the CC to say that modest hard standing pedestrian path has gone out to tender for 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021. 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. Discussion also took place in regards to the development of the Herring walk. KD agreed to get update from Euan.

**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.

**Action/s;** KD to get update from Euan in regards to proposal for Herring walk way.

##### c) CalMac

Transport Committee has now been re-established and will move with the issues raised about Calmac. This is in regards to vessel choice, reliability and technical breakdowns and operational queries.

**Action/s;** BC agreed to contact MSP'S to ask for backing/ support on Calmac local issues

**Action/s;** Cllr DM/ BC will attend Transport committee meetings and keep CC fully informed each meeting.

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

There has been no new cases in Western Isles in over a week. To date; 7,800 people have had their 1<sup>st</sup> vaccination and 2,500 have had their 2<sup>nd</sup> one. Barra & Vatersay has a slightly higher % of administered vaccinations than in other areas in Western Isles and that the uptake has been very high.

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

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

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. No CC members are invited to attend the decant meetings. CC agreed that clarity was sought on numerous issues regarding the new hub.

EMN agreed to invite Iain MacKinnon to next CC meeting.

The issues that need clarity are;

- (1) Location of Police offices and cells . Presently on the plans the police office is located in the main building beside the Children's Centre and the Police cell is located 2m with a separate entrance at A&E wing.**
- (2) Location of Temporary sports facilities**
- (3) Location of fitness Suite**
- (4) Location of temporary sports pitch**

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.

BC stated that the issue of the location of the helipad has not been asked yet and BC agreed to do this before next meeting.

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 invite Iain MacKinnon to next CC meeting

**Action/s;** PC Suzie Felicity agreed to contact Chief Inspector and highlight concerns raised about location of Police offices & cells in new hub,

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

**f) 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. CC recognised that this is an ongoing issue and the fact that it could take years to have any bylaw introduced for the islands to restrict campervans to designated sites. It was also acknowledged that there are 113 designated campsites for campervans to book into and last year it was counted that there around 160 campervans here. Calmac's policy on their website it to recommend all campervans have a booking but they cannot enforce this and it has been reported by local campsite owner that often they got bookings with no shows which indicated some campervanners were booking sites and then cancelling once on the islands. It is welcome that there are now 6 campsites on the island and the CC recognises the value of tourism and the need to accommodate and welcome visitors to the island at the same time. EMN agreed VAVB to display posters on Calmac ferries.

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

**Action/s;** EMN to display posters regarding tourism

**g) Medical Practice Update- stay on agenda**

As of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021, WIHB have employed 2 locum GP's to cover St Brendan's hospital & provide out of hours service to GP Practice.

It was reported to CC that as of January 2022, locum GP's will be replaced by Senior Practitioner nurses with the use of advanced modern technology. Concern was expressed in regards to this as it was agreed urgent clarification was sought from the WIHB. A new system for accessing medical help has also been introduced by WIHB. There is a 5 tier system to call for help and this is being introduced imminently and will be detailed in the Guth.

It is also worth noting that 95% of all patients from Barra & Vatersay attend Glasgow for health appointments as logistically it is much easier to fly to Glasgow than attend the Western Isles hospital in Stornoway.

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 asking for clarification on all the concerns highlighted. A brief letter has been received back addressing only one point on the letter so it was agreed to write another letter seeking further clarification on points not addressed as well highlighted WIHB policy of replacing GP's with Senior Practitioner nurses as of January 2022. It was suggested trying to set up a local steering group which would help collate all the social & health care concerns which would feed into the local locality group & IJB group and for representation to be made to WIHB and Scottish Government.

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

**Action/s;** KD and MWC to write another letter to WIHB also adding in Out of Hours GP cover January 2022

**Action/s;** KD agreed to try and set up a local steering group and to also contact NCC in regards to this.

- 5. Police Report** - PC Suzie Felicity reported that there are still reported incidents of young people in and out of some garden's in Horve and the police have changed their shift patterns so there is more presence on the streets in the evenings. Police are keen to work with all the young people.

#### 6. **Christmas Lights**

AC was informed that council depot cannot be used for storage of Christmas lights and at the moment the lights are stored in his garage. It was agreed to contact council asking why? Alternative is the old vets office which now belongs to VABV.

**Action/s;** BC to contact council requesting use of Depot for storing Christmas lights.

#### 7. **Ditches flooding in and around Horve**

Local clean up took place a few weeks ago organised by PMG and there was a good turn out for the clean up in and around the pitch. 40 bags were collected. At this moment in time due to the new hub build due to take place as of next April 2022, the CC need to reconsider the agreed proposal of last meeting to pay for a digger to clear all the ditches. This is to be considered further.

**Action/s;** PMG to follow up with Calum MacKenzie the issue of ongoing flooding in and around the pitch and pavements.

#### 8. **Temporary Sports Facility**

PMG reported back that as yet there is now confirmation of where the temporary sports facility will be located. PMG and IG attend a sports working group with Iain MacKinnon and other council representatives. It was stressed that Castlebay will lose it's only grass pitch, playpark & ballcourt and there will be no green space for any of the children to play in Castlebay whilst the new hub development takes place. Commitment has been given by Cnes to raise the football pitch and it is anticipated the pitch will be out of action for 3 seasons. It was highlighted the need for the council to identify another area for a grass pitch and to consult with the different townships on this. It is hoped there will be another update in regards to this before the next CC meeting.

**Action/s;** PMG and IG to keep CC updated on any developments.

#### 9. **Fly Tipping & Litter signs**

KD is working with a group of young people on environmental and climate issue and they identified the fly tipping that was happening down the side of a road on the West side of Barra. This has been known as a fly tipping hotspot in previous years before we had skips on the island. It was discussed that with the skips now re-opened, it should stop any fly tipping and for members of the CC to monitor this. KD also asked for CC to help apportion some funds towards the youth group who are keen to design litter signs to put up at certain hotspots round the island. CC agreed to put monies towards this.

#### 10. **Recycling skips**

It has been noted that the recycling skips have been removed and the question was asked as to why and are they coming back?

**Action/s;** Cllr Iain MacNeil agreed to follow up.

#### **AOCB;**

- (a) KD choose donation for this month's Clerk duties to go towards Litter signs around Vatersay & Barra.

#### 11. **Financial update**

IG reported the CC current balance stands at £7201 of which £1500 of these funds are ring fenced for money awarded towards playpark renovations.

**Date of next meeting;** Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April @ 7pm.