

Stornoway Community Council Minutes

18th March 2021

In attendance:

Joan Muir (Chair), Katie Laing (Vice Chair), Susanne Erbida (Secretary), Eric Anderson, Eilidh Thompson, Iain Hamilton, Malcolm Macdonald

Guest: Erin Newsome, Erica Geddes, Amy Kapherr-Diament

Apologies: Cllr Rae Mackenzie, Cllr Angus McCormack

Comhairle Councillors in attendance: Cllr Gordon Murray, Cllr Charles Nicolson

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes agreed.

Correspondence

Invite from Scottish Community Councils for various courses for councillors to attend free of charge.

Treasurer's Update

No update, Eric sent excel file with payment updates to Iain. Iain and Eric's signature to be added and Melinda and John's to be removed. Eric to send the constitution to Iain to check end of year date.

Matters Arising

Thanks from Gordon for a great press release regarding Stornoway Primary All weather pitch. A report is to come out in June. This will remain a standing agenda item until this is achieved, to keep on top of it.

Agenda Items

Stornoway Wind Farm Consulting

2 press releases and survey out regarding this; Joan suggested that this should be independent of social media. Survey Monkey questionnaire was released and more than 200 responses: 80% for an enquiry. 70 written responses – lots of people did not know that planning permission was given, and people think that the project is too much and disproportionate to needs. Report from councils planning officers, submission was written and submitted couple of weeks ago, now waiting on responses from government. All responses received were added to the report as an appendix. SCC could reply to people who wrote responses. Question regarding whether email submission and responses should receive a thanks from SCC. Send out thank you and link when it is up. Makes people feel valued.

This is where it would be desirable to have a website, some kind of home for SCC is needed to upload all information and offer a way to get in touch. Suggestion from Gordon: blogs are free. Space on council website - Joan to contact regarding this. Maintaining would be difficult so would be easier to have a space.

Development Worker

No update. Waiting to hear back from Angie. Uncertain what to do moving forward with this. Lots of work to set this up and any advice would be welcome. Gordon offered to speak to Angie regarding this. Joan to email Gordon. Joan last spoke to Angie on 19th February. It was suggested to add Fiona into the conversation. Get job descriptions from other community development workers, start from there and adapt. Charlie to discuss with Gordon on this matter.

Safeguarding Stornoway

All emails that have been put into a draft email. Emails to go out and date to be decided on a meeting. Split into 2 groups. Core partnership – asking and tasking within own organisations. Speakers - that we invite along as we move forwards. Overviews of their experience. Reduced numbers will allow better conversations with more detailed answers. 32 organisations on the list. What are our objectives and outcomes? Pull together a presentation. What we hope to achieve by working together. Anything that wants to be discussed should be emailed to us. Workloads are busy. Suggest an email to Frank Crighton based in Uist as they have a lot of experience in this area. Needs to be in before next community council meeting.

Action: Joan to contact Frank Crighton regarding this issue.

Words around SCC in general also – aims and objectives for SCC. Official place for information – takes generic aims and personalise them.

AOB

Discussion regarding job situation. HIAL taking jobs away, CalMac taking jobs away. Important to be increasing jobs in the local area.

Stornoway pier and harbour – aspect of having an open day over at Goat Island. Opportunity there to let people know about the SCC. Way to reach out with the community and attend with information. Some jobs on the government website can be based in Stornoway. Write to the council and these organisations regarding concerns over local community losing jobs. Write open public letter to Angus Campbell and copy in existing leader. Joan to have a draft for this.

Grass maintenance around Stornoway stopped. Potential wildflower projects in the local community. Identified an area as a pilot testing for this - small area on Torquill Terrace, Macaulay road to see if this would be beneficial. SCC would be interested in where this could happen. Saving on maintenance that could be spent elsewhere. Get in touch with other associations to ask if they had any areas that could be used.

17th May 8months. Traffic order now going ahead.

FM Nicola Sturgeon discussing moving islands into lower level. Who will this be speaking to?
Council and NHS Western Isles.

Phone boxes – SCC look at to use as community projects.

Next meeting Thursday 15th April 2021 20:00