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AIRIDHANTUIM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 28th March 2022 at 7.30pm

Venue: Clan Macquarrie Community Centre, Borge.

In Attendance:

Office Bearers: Murdo Smith (MS), Chair; Roderick Martin (RM) Vice Chair; Donald A Macdonald (DMD), Clerk

Members: Donna Dorris (DD) ; Kenneth N Graham **By Request:** Tanya Davies, Northland Power **Councillors:** John Mackay; Kenny Macleod

Members of the community: Mathew Maciver; William Taylor; Alex J Morrison; Iain Murray; Sandy Jack; Iain Maciver;

Apologies: Murdo Nicholson, Mairi Macdonald

Item		Action:	Action by:
1.	Welcome & Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MS welcomed all the attendees Apologies were noted as shown above 		
2.	Matters Arising from previous Minutes: Coastal Path & Footbridges & Clach an Truiseal Carpark <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MS reminded those present of the challenges encountered with these two projects – as laid out in previous Minutes. MS has provided the project files for to the Clerk in case a means is found to progress these projects in the future. CnES may have a future route to progressing the carpark project via their VIP scheme, as previously noted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider next steps, if appropriate, at future Community Council meeting 	ALL



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	<p><i>Bus Shelter at Tom na Ba, South Galson</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awaiting further word from Murdo Macritchie at CnES regarding costs quotation to supply and install the shelter. Clerk had chased up the quote in February and Mr Macritchie had promised to follow up the supply costs once more via their mainland-based suppliers. To date, nothing further communicated to us by CnES. We hold funds towards achieving the installation in due course, subject to costs coming in within our budget. <p><i>Upper Shader Telephone Kiosk</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The process to take over the care and maintenance of the decommissioned kiosk has progressed well. DMD/MS were delegated to arrange for execution of the Agreement with BT at the January meeting and this was attended to immediately afterwards, DMD having then returned the signed documents to BT as requested by them. No further communications since then – anticipated next steps being the payment of the £1 takeover fee to BT Kiosk must, in due course, be made available to all in the community that wish to use it as an honesty box for produce/crafts etc There will be a requirement to notify the community, via notice inside the kiosk, via Fios and Facebook etc of its “takeover” when that is appropriate <p><i>Scrap Problems within the community</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following our last meeting, ACC had written to CnES (Planning Dept) on 23rd Feb specifically regarding Galson Lodge, by way of a formal complaint about the conditions at that address and asking for their urgent attention in respect of enforcement action that may be within their powers as the local authority. They have acknowledged our letter (2nd March) and advise that the complaint will be investigated under the Council’s Planning Enforcement Charter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DMD was delegated to make further enquiries via CnES, in order to try and progress matters DMD to check with BT that matters are progressing as expected at their side For noting/reminder purposes For noting/reminder purposes Await developments regarding the complaint prior to deciding next steps 	<p>DMD</p> <p>DMD</p> <p>ALL</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted at the meeting that Galson Lodge was by no means the only address in our community where there is an evident problem with scrap/scrap vehicles. It was felt appropriate however to await the outcome of the Galson Lodge complaint before deciding on further steps by ACC regarding any other sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For noting/carry forward to future meetings 	ALL
3.	<p><i>Conference Call with Tanya Davies, Northland Power</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Community Council had received a request from Ms Davies to attend our meeting in order to provide an update on Northland's recent successful bid to construct two offshore wind turbine developments off the coast of NW Lewis. One of the developments is proposed to be "floating" the other "fixed" to the seabed. Part of Tanya's remit is community consultation and attendance at ACC is just one of a number of similar such meetings she will be holding over the next few weeks, including with other community councils in Lewis. It was clear that the projects are at a very early stage, with the details not entirely clear even to Northland at this juncture. Much of the detail around shore bases, cabling landfall, and substations etc also remains to be confirmed and may well depend on the existence or otherwise of an "interconnector" cable to allow the power to be exported from Lewis. Doune Reay in Caithness is a possible alternative landfall site should Lewis not have the necessary infrastructure It appears that the construction process will be fairly long drawn out – possibly 8 years or so. Initial progression will be via community consultations, bird studies, research, planning consents etc, with actual construction likely starting in around 5 years time The fixed structures will be progressed before the floating turbines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For information only 	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be one or two initial local jobs however (eg Project Development and Community liaison posts), advertising for these should be fairly soon. Tanya tried to answer questions from attendees regarding a number of different aspects of these proposed developments – eg job numbers, community benefits, supply chain benefits, construction/cabling methods, size of turbines etc. Again, too early for much of the detail to be known There is an opportunity for anyone who is interested in learning more about the projects to attend a community drop-in session at Stornoway Town Hall on 19th May 		
4.	<p>Financial Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treasurer was not in attendance but provided a written Report in advance of the meeting, for noting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latest balance of account is therefore £14,026, allocated to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal Walkway £4,733 Galson Bus Shelter £3,600 Clach an Truiseal £1,709 Admin/Social £3,984 A modest invoice of £90 to Clan Macquarrie Community Centre for hall use across 3 years was paid recently, which is the only change in finances since our previous meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For noting 	
5.	<p>Queen's Platinum Jubilee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Lord Lieutenancy have written to community councils within the Western Isles to advise of national events taking place in early June to mark the Jubilee and to perhaps consider how Community Councils might be able to organise or encourage more localised events. No decision taken at our meeting, albeit the correspondence was noted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To raise awareness and perhaps to consider any suitable action to mark the event 	



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6.	<p><i>Appointment of Chairperson</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MS had formally intimated to the Community Council in January that he intended to step down from his role as Chair and from membership of the Community Council at the conclusion of our March meeting. • The appreciation of ACC on behalf of the community was conveyed to MS for his execution of his duties as a very effective Chair over the last 5 years since the re-establishment of Airidhantuim Community Council • As a token of the Community Council's gratitude, a presentation of a card and gifts was made to MS • RM was asked if he would take on the role of Chair and he agreed on the basis of it being a short-term appointment, pending someone else taking it on • The appointment of a Vice Chair to replace RM was deferred until a future meeting <p>PTO</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions arising from these changes and those detailed at Item 7, include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Changes to banking mandate ○ Notification to CnES ○ Letterhead etc changes ○ Changes to e-mail cascades 	<p>DMD</p>
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7.	AOB: Membership of ACC – new members appointed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community members present were asked to consider joining the Community Council, as directly appointed members, and four of those present agreed to do so, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandy Jack; Iain Maciver; Mathew Maciver; Iain Murray Subsequent to the meeting, the Clerk received an e-mailed enquiry from Luke Mackay, Ballantrushal, regarding joining the Community Council. After subsequent consultation with the new Chair, a decision was taken to co-opt Mr Mackay until the June meeting, at which point his direct appointment to membership could be confirmed. **See footnote below, regarding membership issues which arose post-meeting 	For noting and for notifying to CnES	DMD
8.	Remaining Meeting Dates for 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20th June, 26th September, 28th November 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For noting/diaries 	ALL

****Note:** Subsequent to the meeting of 28th March 2022, the Clerk checked the Constitution document held for ACC (the copy held was unsigned) and also CnES' Scheme for Establishment, their governing document for Community Councils in the Western Isles. The check was in order to clarify the method by which to appoint new members. The Constitution, which was to have been tabled and potentially adopted at the January 2020 meeting, stated that ACC required a minimum of 4 elected members to operate and that it was limited to having 4 co-opted members. In addition, that the number of co-opted members could not exceed the number of elected members. Immediately prior to any new appointments, we had 3 "elected" members remaining – Murdo N; Donna ; Kenny – and 3 "co-opted" members – Roddy; Mairi; Donald. Correspondence and telephone discussions were then instigated with Derek Mackay, CnES Governance & Elections Manager, who has now provided a new Constitution document to help address any operating concerns we had highlighted. In summary, Mr Mackay suggests that we refer to all community members onboarded since the 2019 "election" as "directly appointed to vacancies arising in the elected membership" (being practically equivalent to "elected") and perhaps keep the co-option definition largely for onboarding of specific expertise from within or outwith the area in case of future need – eg for short periods of need or to help with specific projects etc. The suggested way forward now for ACC is to formally adopt and sign the new Constitution at the start of the next meeting and to minute the designation of each member of ACC as "elected" or as "directly appointed to vacancies in the elected membership" at the next meeting. We should also perhaps re-confirm who holds the roles of Chair and Clerk and appoint a new Vice Chair.