

## **Back Community Council Meeting**

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021 @ 7:30pm

Zoom Virtual Meeting

Minutes of Meeting

**Present:** Cathy MacInnes, Sara Maciver, Andrew Morrison, Cllr Donald Crichton, Cllr John A Maciver, Margaret-Ann Maciver (MA), Colin Thompson, Neil Davis and Kinny Davis

**Apologies:** Cllr Calum Maclean

**Chair:** Cathy Macinnes

Cathy Macinnes welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

### **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes from our meeting held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 were proposed by Andrew Morrison and seconded by Colin Thompson.

The minutes from our meeting held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were proposed by Neil Davis and seconded by Kinny Davis.

### **Matters Arising**

#### **Development Worker**

There were two applicants who unfortunately did not meet the minimum criteria and therefore could not get interviewed. Cathy mentioned the possibility of getting someone seconded from the CNES or from the college.

The job was well advertised but perhaps it was the time of year that resulted in the lack of interest. The next step will be to contact Rural Development and Fiona Begg and to speak to Kathryn Lamont about advertising the post during the summer to target new graduates.

#### **Polycrub**

Colin has been looking for plots but they are in short supply. Colin spoke to Angus Mackay about the area between Mackay's office and the Coll Pottery, Angus advised that we would need to askcroft owners individually.

Ruaraidh Moir, an Architect from Tolsta has developed a site plan for the polycrub. Although we have not secured land, the polycrub can potentially go on the planning form. Cathy will get permission from Ruaraidh to send a copy of the site plan to the committee.

There has been no update on the transfer of assets but we should hear back around the Summer.

#### **Speed Sign**

The speed sign is back and is placed in Gearraidh Guirm. John 'Tubes' Macleod provided companies that we can source new batteries. The battery is lasting longer as the sign is not scanning vehicles from too far away. The community council only have a cheque book available for payments so we would not be able to make online purchases. Cathy will contact John to see if the Comhairle can purchase the batteries and then invoice BCC.

Two Back School children have been hit by cars in our area since Christmas. Cathy will ask John to have a general look of the area and put up signs where needed. We would like to new 'Children Crossing' signs for Gearraidh Guirm, Straid a Bhac and the Upper Coll junction.

Sara will invite the police liaison and the new Chief Inspector to attend the next meeting.

### **Hut Containers**

Cllr Maclean and Cathy emailed Cala Mackenzie, Head of Assets and Environment Health regarding the concerns of children climbing on the containers at the Hut. This has been brought to their attention before and the containers were moved slightly. Cala will ask the health and safety advisor to risk assess the area and will keep an eye on it.

### **Finances**

The balance stands at £20,917.26.

This includes £11,000 for the development officer and £4666 for the play park. The next bank statement should include the polycrub funding.

### **AOCB**

#### **Signage at Gress Beach**

The community council have been contacted by residents to ask us to put up signage at Gress Car Park with No Overnight Parking, No Camping, No Fires. These residents are not keen on signs but feel that campers are lighting fires and leaving a lot of litter.

The Community Council are not too keen on prohibitive signs and understand that provided they clean up and look after the environment camping at the beach is something local young folk have long enjoyed.

Cathy will email the Gress Common Grazing clerk to see their views and any suggestions on this matter.

### **Lewis Association of Community Councils**

There was discussion around areas wanting HHP to build more affordable housing in rural areas. Pairc, Uig and Bernera want houses built and would like land. They will invite the grazings committees to attend their next meeting to ask for availability of land. Given the amount of houses in the Loch a Tuath and Stornoway area, we feel the need for land is not needed in our area.

MA represented Back at this meeting and will forward on the minutes. There is a scheme to bring empty houses to use but it's not off the ground yet.

LACC sent a proposed statement to Lewis and Harris community councils about the inadequate ferry services. The statement echoes what Uist & Barra Community Councils sent. The next meeting is on 17<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30pm.

### **Outend Coll Signage**

The road signage in the Outend Coll village is old and need replacing. Cllr Maciver will contact Tubes to review this.

### **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting will be on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 7:30pm.

Cathy Macinnes thanked everybody for attending and closed the meeting.