

Back Community Council Meeting

Tuesday 8th March 2022 @ 7:00pm

Loch a Tuath Community Hut

Minutes of Meeting

Present: Margaret-Ann Maciver (MA), Sara Maciver, Andrew Morrison, Cllr Donald Crichton, Cllr Calum Maclean, Colin Thompson, Neil Davis, Gordon MacLennan, Anna Tucker, Jennet McNinch, Scott Macleod.

Apologies: Cathy Macinnes, Kinny Davis, Alex John Macleod, Boyd Mackenzie, Sarah Mackay.

Chair: Margaret-Ann Maciver (MA)

Margaret-Ann Maciver welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes from our meeting held on Tuesday 9th February 2022 were proposed by Colin Thompson and seconded by Donald Crichton.

Matters Arising

1. COMANN EACHDRAIDH

The polycrub planning application is in with Ruaridh Moir. Colin will get the planning fee into the payment office tomorrow as the price is going to go up. Andrew will then invoice CEBac. It is not known how long planning will take to process, so Colin will get it submitted as soon as possible so we can get the polycrub up and running.

There is no financial gain for the polycrub. Any resident of the Loch a Tuath area can pick a raised bed.

2. BFRC

Jennet is the new sports co-ordinator for BFRC, who kindly came along to our meeting to introduce herself to the community council. Jennet's aim is for the BFRC and BCC to work together.

Euan Macleod and Jennet are hoping to holding an event at the end of the month, targeting folk aged 65+, but it's for all ages. They hope to offer free gym inductions for 65 years +, and gentle gym routine classes with Sharon. BFRC are looking for volunteers to make tea/coffees/baking.

BFRC are hoping to collaborate with the Comann Eachdraidh group by holding a soup and pudding lunch using the under spend on the 26th March.

£500 for the Easter Bunny Hop project has been sorted.

3. BREVIG HARBOUR USERS GROUP

- The clean up was successful and is almost complete.
- Each corner of the pier has its own railings and ladder tops.
- It needs edge protection – they have bought used railway sleepers and CNES spec bolts etc.
- They have bought a forklift for the harbour. Gordon Diesels will make a basket/cage to fit to the forklift. Apply for funding to purchase a container for the forklift.
- It would be worth pricing the cost to buy CCTV – apply for crown estate or ward funding.
- Discussion to square off and have designated areas for each fisherman as they are leaving their things around the perimeter of the pier.
- The users group would need to resurface the road around the harbour with tar or cement as it is full of potholes.
- Fly tipping has almost ceased.

Next Stage

- Move unattended boats to a delegated area and ask Iain Buchanan (assistant Harbour Master) whether those fishermen are paying for the use of the harbour.
- Put pressure on the harbour boys – if you are a user then you need to pay.
- Gordon and Alex John will prepare costs and a plan before applying for the 3rd round of C.E funding in April or the 4th round in June.

4. CROWN ESTATE

Suggestions were discussed on projects that we could apply for with this round of crown estate funding – although road works may not meet the criteria. A list of criteria is attached within the application form. The deadline for applications is the 11th April.

5. BREVIG TOILETS

There has been no update on the Brevig toilets.

6. DEVELOPMENT WORKER POST

Kathryn Lamont Smith is standing down from the Tong Community Council.

It may be worth submitting an application for additional funding for a 2 year fixed term post as it may be more appealing to potential applicants.

7. POLYCRUB

Angus Mackay will prepare the area. Once Chris Mayer has completed his part of the polycrub project, we will ask the Loch a Tuath News to advertise on Facebook and in the magazine that we are looking for volunteers to help us build the shed, raised beds and other related jobs.

Colin will prepare the costings to cover the shortfall - due to the increase of materials since the pandemic began. Colin will submit an application to the crown estate once he has confirmed the costs.

8. GRESS BEACH SIGNAGE

There has been no update on this matter.

9. SPEED SIGN

The speed sign is back at Gearraidh Guirm. There was discussion on purchasing another speed sign.

10. CONSTITUTION

Colin spoke to Derek Mackay with regards to the constitution. We now have a better understanding of the process of nominating committee members. Neil and Colin were been co-opted onto the committee in 2019.

The constitution will be updated at our next AGM. The next AGM will take place after the local elections on the 5th May.

11. ENCHANTED GARDEN

Boyd Mackenzie will not be applying for this round of crown estate funding as his project is progressing very slowly. The main delay has been trying to find someone to give advice on installing some form of micro Pico generation into the back burn.

Andrew will keep in touch with Boyd about the funding available in June.

12. SURVEY

Having checked over the survey from 2020, the community would like to see better beach access at Gress and Vatisker. This is a common grazings matter. Sara will invite both common grazing groups to the next meeting.

Finances

The balance stands at £51,291.62. This includes the crown estate funding and play park monies.

Alex John has sent Andrew the invoices for the Brevig project so far and there are more to come.

AOCB

13. POLYCRUB LAND

Comann Eachdraidh own the land in front of the Hut where the polycrub and shed will be placed. BCC will be leasing this land from the Comann Eachdraidh. The price of the lease is yet to be confirmed.

14. LHACC

Colin attended a Lewis and Harris Association of Community Council meeting and the main discussion related to Calmac Ferries. Colin will pass on the minutes of that meeting to BCC.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be on Tuesday 12th April 2022 at 7:00pm.

Margaret-Ann Maciver thanked everybody for attending and closed the meeting.