

NORTH TOLSTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Note of meeting of the **North Tolsta Community Council** held at the Community Hall meeting room, North Tolsta, on **Wednesday, 23 March 2016, at 7.00pm**.

PRESENT: Anna Mackenzie; Effie MacMillan; Erica MacLeod; John A. MacIver; Fiona Macleod; Cllr John A MacIver, Stuart Thomson.

APOLOGIES: Cllrs Donald Crichton and Catriona Stewart, Angus Murray (Clerk)

CHAIR: Anna MacKenzie

1. Note of the Last Meeting

The Note of the last meeting of 17 February 2016 was approved

Matters arising

(a) Additional Skip (Metals)

Stuart Thomson confirmed that a metal skip had been provided at the Village re-cycling facility as discussed at the previous meeting. This was to be treated as a 'pilot' on the basis that no more than two skips could be located on the site without it constituting a 'site' which would incur additional licensing costs. Consequently, the skip was not a permanent fixture and there would be no charge for its location on the site.

Stuart commented that the new skip seemed to be working well. It might be that it would stay on location over the summer months with the electrical skip being provided continuously.

Decision

It was agreed that regular reports would be submitted with a view to establishing how long it would take to fill it up.

(b) War Memorial

It was confirmed that Angus Murray was progressing this matter it having been previously reported that the appropriate documentation had been submitted.

2. Appointment of Treasurer

There was no appointment made on the evening of the meeting.

As previously reported, there were a number of invoices outstanding which would need to be paid but not until a transfer of signatories could be resolved, which was not going to be a speedy process.

The previous bank signatories had to go into the bank to confirm their removal as signatories. In the meantime, John Maciver had printed off documentation to progress new signatories. Erica MacLeod, Anna Mackenzie and John Maciver signed as signatories and it would be arranged for Angus Murray to be added as a fourth signatory.

Decision

It was agreed (a) that Anna would arrange for signatures to be obtained from previous signatories as required in the paperwork and (b) that Angus Murray and John Maciver would report to the next meeting on progress being made to clarify previous transactions and invoices outstanding together with any other issues.

3. Current/Future Activities 2016 (a) Community Hall and (b) New Build

(a) Community Hall

Kitchen

It was noted that following the meeting Anna Mackenzie, Effie MacMillan, and Erica MacLeod would undertake an assessment of kitchen equipment and other items with a view to arranging their disposal, retention, repair etc. as appropriate.

It was noted that a kitchen planner could be invited to advise on kitchen layout and any necessary re-furbishment including the replacement of the sink which was too low. Cllr Maciver had previously indicated that a proportion of Ward Initiative funding would be made available to support the kitchen project

The school was without a potato peeler and the peeler in the kitchen was not used. It was suggested that the school could be offered the peeler. Arising from discussion of this proposal, there was discussion on the need to ascertain whether electrical goods had been subject to electrical testing. This would be established when the proposed assessment was carried out following the meeting.

Hall

There was asbestos on the hall roof and a leak. The paintwork behind the ceiling heaters was not flame retardant. Cllr. Maciver undertook to ascertain from Catriona Maciver, Education Services the protocol for the Community Council arranging for quotations for this work which would require scaffolding on the basis that Education Services should pay for those works necessary to bring the Hall up to the requisite safety standards.

Welfare Centre

It had been previously agreed that the Community Council should continue to pursue the possibility of the Community Hall being a Welfare Centre although in terms of earlier discussion (above) the hall was not fit for purpose at present.

The suggestion was that a Group of Community Members would be form a 'Community Resilience' resource and be responsible for maintaining a list of residents who might need support in sustained, adverse weather or other conditions. This Team/Group would liaise with emergency services as appropriate and co-ordinate support to those in need from amongst willing members of the community. Discussion revolved around people's willingness to form such a Group/Team, the compilation of a list of those who might need support and contacts willing to assist, the need to keep lists up-to-date, data protection and so on.

The Back and Tong Communities were also pursuing this initiative. Reference was made to 'Locality Planning Group' meetings that could take place in alternative locations between two representatives from Tolsta, Back and Tong and it was suggested that if such meetings

were agreeable, the Tolsta Community Council might progress their response to this proposal through such meetings where learning might be shared.

Decision

It was agreed:-

- a) A report would be provided to the next meeting on the Kitchen Equipment Assessment,
- b) Councillor would report back to the next meeting on discussions with Education Services on monies available for repairs to the Hall, and
- c) Councillor Maciver would explore the willingness of Back and Tong to take part in 'Locality Planning Group' meetings, as a means of informing action on areas of mutual interest and/or concern.

(b) New Build (Steering Group) Progress

A new build comprising a shop, café and historical area was being progressed by a Steering Group comprising representatives from the Historical Society; TCDL; the Shop; and Grazing Committees. At the previous meeting, Fiona Macleod had been nominated as a Community Council representative in addition to Anna MacKenzie who was also Vice-Chair of the Historical Society. Anna who had attended a recent meeting reported that a) a feasibility study was to be carried but initial discussions with the Planners, the Water Board etc. had proved positive, b) it would be expensive to prepare the proposed site which would need reasonable parking provision, c) wide ranging discussion had taken place on a range of possibilities for the build e.g. a two/three story construction with storage on the ground floor, office accommodation, shop, tenpin bowling, café and other suggestions, and d) any facility would be likely to require a lift.

Decision

It was agreed that the Clerk would advise the Steering Group of the names and contact details of the nominated Community Council representatives.

4. Comhairle nan Eilean Siar - Community Council Seminar - 16 March 2016

Fiona Macleod and Anna MacKenzie had attended a Community Council Seminar held by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar in the Council Chambers, Stornoway on 16 March 2016. A similar event had taken place in the Uists.

It was reported that:-

- a) a copy of the presentation slides would be forwarded to the Clerk but in light of the forthcoming Scottish Parliamentary Elections in May, it would be June before a report on the outcome from the Seminars would be available;
- b) there had been discussion on the use of social media in promoting the work of Community Councils, the e-resource 'e-Sgìre' which was hosted by the Comhairle but which not being used that extensively and perhaps needed review, a suggestion for the creation of an on-line Community Council handbook. Reference had also been made to the Association of Community Councils that had been formed in the Uists and the fact that they had a nominee on the Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership; and
- c) as regards Planning a suggestion had been made that each Community Council should: have 3-4 Community Councillors registered on the planning e-portal, that arrangements should be made to enable decisions on applications to be submitted in the name of the

Community Council where a 50% discount applied when meetings were not scheduled, or during recess periods, and that 'planning' should feature as a standing item on agendas whether or not applications had been made in the area and

d) due to a lack of time, there had been no discussion on 'Participatory Budgeting'.

Decision

It was agreed to continue consideration of this item to a future meeting when the slides and report from the Community Council events had been made available.

5. Centre for Independent Living

A new Centre for Independent Living would officially be opened in Stornoway on Thursday (24th March) by Gordon Jamieson, Chief Executive, NHS Western Isles, and Ron Culley, Chief Officer, Health and Social Care.

The purpose-designed facility would be a multi-disciplinary led Centre based within the Grianan Centre, Westview Terrace, Stornoway, which would be set up as a 'real life' house with rooms designed to showcase a variety of health and care technology that could help people live a more independent life.

The Centre was being developed as part of an EU funded project, RemoAge, funded by the Northern Peripheries and Arctic Programme that was looking to find new ways of supporting vulnerable older people to live longer in their homes in remote areas of northern Europe. The project would run for 1 year. Anna Mackenzie would attend on behalf of the Community Council.

Decision

It was agreed that Anna Mackenzie would report back on the new centre to the next meeting.

6. AOCB

a) 2020 - Tolsta Wind Turbine Development

In 2013, an application made by Druim Leathann Windfarm Ltd (DLWL) for the development of a 42MW Windfarm, consisting of 14 wind turbines and associated infrastructure at Tolsta, Isle of Lewis had been approved by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

It was understood that a member of the Community had approached the Clerk and had requested that the position with the development be considered by the Community Council and that consideration be given to a letter being sent in appropriate terms from the Community Council to villagers on the current situation. There were those present who felt that this matter should not be re-opened and others who considered that as a new Community Council, matters had moved on, and whilst the matter had been divisive in the past, this should not impinge a free flow of information.

Decision

It was agreed that the Clerk would invite the author of the letter to attend the next meeting to discuss the terms and detail of the issue being raised and the nature of any support being sought.

b) Fly Tipping & Dog Fouling

It was confirmed that Police Constable (PC) David Fraser was Police Scotland's liaison contact for the Community Council.

Decision

It was agreed that PC Fraser be invited to the next meeting of the Community Council to speak on community policing matters and in particular, Fly Tipping and Dog Fouling.

8. Date of next meeting

Meetings usually took place on the Third Wednesday of each month. The next meeting would take place on Wednesday, 20th April 2016 at 7.00pm in the Community Hall meeting room, North Tolsta

The meeting closed at 8.35pm