

NORTH TOLSTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Note of meeting of the **North Tolsta Community Council** held at the Community Hall meeting room, North Tolsta, on **Wednesday, 20 April 2016, at 7.00pm**.

PRESENT: Anna Mackenzie; Effie MacMillan; Erica MacLeod; Stuart Thomson; Angus Murray (AM).

APOLOGIES: Cllrs Donald Crichton, Catriona Stewart and John A MacIver; John MacIver (JM); Fiona MacLeod; Evelyn McIntosh.

CHAIR: Anna MacKenzie

WELCOME: Tom Danks, Community Environment Officer, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and PC David Fraser, Police Scotland (Community Liaison).

1. Note of the Last Meeting

The Note of the last meeting of 23 March 2016 was approved.

2. Tom Danks (TD) and PC Fraser spoke on dog fouling & fly tipping and community policing respectively.

(a) There were no concerns in terms of community policing locally although some issues were raised about speeding throughout the village, “road narrows” in certain areas of the village (not so much a problem for locals) and bad parking at blind spots, e.g. just beyond the corner at 35NT.

(b) The Community Environment Officer had visited the Tràigh Mhòr and had observed that dog walkers appeared to be depositing bags of dog waste at the edges of the paths and around the small toilet block building at the car park. There was no dog foul bin and no other bins at the toilet block; only the bins located at the top of the hill leading down to the Tràigh.

He had raised this issue with Iain Norman Campbell at Zero Waste and was advised that there were no bins located beside the toilet block because (i) during summer months, traffic using the car park obstructed the RCV making servicing the bin impossible; and (ii) during winter months, the steep incline proved very difficult for the RCV to negotiate.

TD suggested that the situation could be resolved by installing a suitably worded sign directing dog owners towards the bins at the top of the hill.

TD confirmed that a sign advising of the law was now in place adjacent to the gate giving access to beach.

The Community Council was asked to consider the possibility of bins, or some similar facility, positioned at the bottom of the Tràigh Road and/or arrangements to empty waste regularly into the bins at the top of the hill.

The Community Council was in agreement that some arrangements should be in place as regards signage and bins (or similar facility) to stop this and would consider, in addition to the Tràigh Mhòr, other locations where this might be appropriate, e.g., play park.

The Community Council was not opposed to enforcement and whatever fines that might entail through escalation, although it was acknowledged that this was difficult to monitor or 'police' on a day to day basis. Garry Beach was not so much of a problem as regards dog fouling.

- (c) As regards the incident of fly tipping at an Cladach, the culprits had been identified and the matter resolved peaceably.

3. Appointment of Treasurer

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

Signatures had now been obtained from previous signatories and the bank mandate had also been signed by the current relevant parties and it would now be possible, in due course, to pay the invoices outstanding.

It was agreed to open an account at Macgregor's to formalise and record more officially any purchase of essential materials /equipment made by the Community Council. AM would deal with this.

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

(a) Community Hall

Kitchen

At the previous meeting it has been intended that an assessment would be taken of kitchen equipment and other items with a view to arranging their disposal, retention, repair etc., as appropriate. Electrical goods had been subject to electrical testing.

At the previous meeting it was also intended 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. There was no update on these matters.

Hall

The problems with the Community Hall were acknowledged and in the long term it was not a viable option as a community facility. There was asbestos on the hall roof and it leaked and the walls needed painting.

The Hall was now under the auspices of the Technical Services Department so the Education and Children Services Dept was unlikely to fund or contribute to any future and interim reparative costs.

A meeting was held between members of TCDL and the Comhairle's Head of Assets and Infrastructure on 13 April 2016. AM (Secretary) had been invited to this meeting but was unable to attend. The precise nature or content of the meeting

was not known although informally it was indicated to AM that TCDL had sought approval for the demolition of the hall after three years with a view to building another one, although this needed to be substantiated. There was no update on the cost of the cosmetic reparative works in the meantime.

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 the hall was not fit for purpose at present.

The suggestion at the previous meeting was that a Group of Community Members would 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. There was no further discussion of this at the meeting.

(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. The Community Council was now represented on this group. A meeting was to take place on 28 April 2016 between the Steering Group and David MacLeay and Ken Roddy MacKay from the Comhairle's Regeneration Team (Capital Grants Scheme).

5 Coastal Erosion/Community Jobs

There was some discussion about the coastal erosion at an Tràigh Mhòr and whether there might be appropriate sources of funding.

The Chair also flagged up the need to address a number of jobs in the community and to have some arrangements in place to enable these to be done.

It was agreed that the Community Council should compile a list of 'jobs' and agree a mechanism for dealing with these, e.g. expressions of interest for any works that needed to be done locally.

6. 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.

- a) the presentation slides and the outcomes of the seminar had been forwarded to the Secretary and then circulated to Community Council members;
- b) Community Councils were now being notified of planning applications.

7. Centre for Independent Living

A new Centre for Independent Living was opened officially in Stornoway on Thursday 24 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.

Anna Mackenzie attended on behalf of the Community Council and provided an update on the importance of these aids in helping elderly and vulnerable people live independently for as long as possible.

8. AOCB

(a) 2020 - Tolsta Wind Turbine Development

There was no extensive discussion on this matter although it was apparent that there was some difference of opinion among members as to whether the matter should be revisited. The member of the community who had made the initial approach to the Secretary did not wish to attend any meetings of the Community Council. The issue of a further letter by the Community Council to villagers and particularly shareholders was not discussed.

(b) TV Licence

The Community Council had received a request to pay a TV licence. It was unclear at the meeting whether the television in the meeting room was ever actually used or could be used. (Subsequently transpired that there is no working TV in the hall so a licence is not necessary).

(c) War Memorial

JM had forwarded AM the latest correspondence regarding the the Grants pre-application form. It was confirmed in an e-mail of 2 May 2016 that the initial assessment process might take some 8 to 10 weeks due to the high number of applications.

9. Date of next meeting

Meetings usually took place on the Third Wednesday of each month. The next meeting would take place on Wednesday, 18 May 2016 at 7.00pm in the Community Hall meeting room, North Tolsta (subsequently deferred until 25 May 2016).