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## **AIRIDHANTUIM COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7.30pm**

**Venue: Clan Macquarrie Community Centre, Borge.**

### **In Attendance:**

**Office Bearers:** Chair; Roderick Martin (RM) Chair; Donald A Macdonald (DMD), Clerk

**Elected or Directly Appointed Members:** Murdo Nicholson (MN); Sandy Jack (SJ); Iain Maciver (IMI); Kenneth N Graham (KNG); Iain Murray (IM)

**Councillors:** Kenny Macleod (KML); John N Macleod (JNML)

**Members of the community:** Catherine Smith; Jim McCartney; DJ Morrison; Katherine Maclean

**Guests:** Murdo Maclean, Ferries Community Board

**Apologies:** Mairi Macdonald; Donna Dorris; Luke Mackay; Kevin Matheson; Mathew Maciver; Councillor Donald Macsween

| <b>Item</b> |  | <b>Action:</b>  | <b>Action by:</b> |
|-------------|--|---|-------------------|
| <b>1.</b>   | <b><i>Welcome &amp; Apologies</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RM welcomed all the attendees</li> <li>Apologies were noted as shown above</li> </ul>   |   |                   |
| <b>2.</b>   | <b><i>Minutes of the last Meeting plus Matters Arising</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><i>Minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> August meeting were proposed by MN and seconded by RM</i></b></li> <li><b><i>Matters Arising:</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><i>Scrap problems (RM updated the meeting)</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><i>Not too much new to report</i></b></li> <li><b><i>Goodwill noted as being needed from all concerned</i></b></li> <li><b><i>Considering a campaign of further action by ACC in New Year</i></b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The item is likely to remain on the agenda for future meetings and may need input from CnES, SEPA, Crofting Commission and UOG among others</li> </ul> | <b>RM</b>         |





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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b><i>High Borve and Lower Shader bus shelters have now both had panel replacements</i></b></li> <li>▪ <b><i>Streetlighting could be problematic for any new installations – Councillors suggesting much will depend on the next capital budget awards to CnES</i></b></li> <li>▪ <b><i>Poor or inadequate pavements and roadside paths flagged up as a concern previously too. These sidewalk areas require cleaning/scraping to restore a safe width and to reduce slip risks, also to review white line markings. Given it is a safety concern, Councillors were asked anew to give it attention on behalf of ACC.</i></b></li> <li>▪ <b><i>Road gritting – we wrote to CnES subsequent to the last meeting. Response from CnES included that we could appeal formally but also the following included:</i></b><br/>         Your request should include a rationale for the request detailing specific incidents as a result of road condition or substantive changes within the locality within the past year.<br/> <b>and</b><br/>         The rationale for the prioritisation of the A857 Barvas to Ness route is based largely on operational experience of the road network during historical winter seasons, and a practical assessment of what can be achieved with available resources.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted, with thanks to CnES/Councillors</li> <li>• Noted- retain on agenda</li> <li>• Councillors to press for action re all Ballantrushal to Melbost sidewalks</li> <li>• Continue to monitor, encourage reporting of incidents and decide on whether a formal appeal should be made and on what basis given the reply from CnES</li> </ul> | <p><b>DMD</b></p> <p><b>KM/JNM/DMS</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p> |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b><i>Gunnera problems</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b><i>UOG report that spraying took place widely during early Septembe rusing CnES employees to do the spraying. UOG are</i></b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |  |  |



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|-----------|---|--|--|
|           | <p><i>keen to train local people in safe use of weedkiller and gunnera destruction going forward however and have concerns a full eradication programme may take several years to be successful.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Sewage leakage</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>The potential case in High Borve was reported to SEPA who advise that they inspected the site but see no need for any action currently</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Melbost Village Bridge</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>No further word heard from CnES</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Galson Speed Limit</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>A Scot Gov initiative on which little further update can be expected before mid-2023 per Councillor K Macleod. Councillor Macsween confirmed ahead of the meeting that Galson is on the list of villages being considered.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Northland Power</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>No further communication or correspondence received or sent since their attendance in Spring 2022 by conference call</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Barvas Cemetery Road</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Reported our discussion at last ACC meeting to Cemetery Committee member Alasdair Smith, who acknowledged it and thanked us – he also advised they are pushing various parties in an effort to achieve a solution re state of this private road.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-engage with UOG after January, in advance of the next growth season</li> <li>• Noted – report again if it recurs</li> <li>• KM to consult with CnES Engineer</li> <li>• Noted – retain on agenda</li> <li>• Noted – retain on agenda</li> <li>• Noted – no further action</li> </ul> | <p><b>TBC</b></p> <p><b>KM</b></p> <p><b>DMD</b></p> <p><b>DMD</b></p> |
| <b>3.</b> | <p><b>Calmac Ferries Community Board (Murdo Maclean)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Murdo provided an update of his role as a community representative (one of two from Lewis and Harris on the Community Board).</i></li> <li>○ <i>Murdo reflected on the imminent changes with ticketing and booking procedures, highlighting that a review will take place after the first 6 months of operating the new system</i></li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted, with thanks to Murdo for his attendance</li> <li>• Potential for further updates in future</li> </ul>  |  |



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|--------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--|--|
|                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <i>He recommends that feedback is given by the community/community councils etc during the review phase if the new system isn't operating to the community's satisfaction</i></li><li>○ <i>Discussion followed regarding the re-introduction of the campaigning Lewis Ferries Group and also about "Project Neptune", a Scot Gov study re Calmac and ferry service provision in other parts of the world</i></li><li>○ <i>Murdo mentioned a new Facebook page set up by the Ferries Community Board, which ACC will now begin to "follow" via social media</i></li><li>○ <i>Murdo also provided ACC with a paper copy of Consultation Findings by Calmac as well as a Report on the socio-economic impact of CalMac ferries (commissioned jointly by CalMac and the Ferries Communities Board)</i></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Follow on our Facebook page</li><li>• Noted, to be passed on to ACC members</li></ul> | <p><b>DMD</b></p> <p><b>DMD</b></p> |                      |                      |                     |                        |                        |                      |  |  |
| 4.                             | <p><b>Financial Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Treasurer was not in attendance but provided a written Report in advance of the meeting, for noting:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Latest balance of account is unchanged from the last meeting, being £13,872, now re-allocated to the following as a result of agreements reached with Western Isles Lifestyle Lottery and with CnES as admins for Crown Estate funding:<table><tr><td>▪ Coastal/Shader River Walkway</td><td>£ 721 (reduced £3,312)</td></tr><tr><td>▪ Galson Bus Shelter</td><td>£5,309 (incr £1,709)</td></tr><tr><td>▪ Clach an Truiseal</td><td>£ Nil (reduced £1,709)</td></tr><tr><td>▪ Admin/Social/General</td><td>£7,842 (incr £3,312)</td></tr></table></li></ul></li></ul>   | ▪ Coastal/Shader River Walkway  | £ 721 (reduced £3,312)              | ▪ Galson Bus Shelter | £5,309 (incr £1,709) | ▪ Clach an Truiseal | £ Nil (reduced £1,709) | ▪ Admin/Social/General | £7,842 (incr £3,312) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For noting</li></ul> |  |
| ▪ Coastal/Shader River Walkway | £ 721 (reduced £3,312)   |   |                                     |                      |                      |                     |                        |                        |                      |  |  |
| ▪ Galson Bus Shelter           | £5,309 (incr £1,709)   |   |                                     |                      |                      |                     |                        |                        |                      |  |  |
| ▪ Clach an Truiseal            | £ Nil (reduced £1,709)   |   |                                     |                      |                      |                     |                        |                        |                      |  |  |
| ▪ Admin/Social/General         | £7,842 (incr £3,312)   |   |                                     |                      |                      |                     |                        |                        |                      |  |  |



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|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will now be able to retain and use WILL (£1,709)/CE (£3,312) monies towards different new projects, subject to keeping CnES and WILL <u>advised in advance</u> of our intended spend of their previous funding.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clerk to write to WILL and to CnES when alternative projects we have in mind are ready to “go” – giving a note of the specifics plus before and after photos</li> </ul>  | <b>DMD</b>          |
| 5. | <p><b><i>Picnic Area at Borve Bridge</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Added as a desirable project</li> <li>Sub-group formed comprising: SJ; IMI; KM; MM to consider options/costs</li> <li>HES have no interest in the project</li> <li>CnES are happy with the proposed refresh provided no part of the bridge nor its approach walls are disturbed</li> <li>The existing seating area and fencing is run-down and overgrown and membership felt that it may benefit from a review and re-fresh – possibly a relocation too.</li> <li>It was felt sensible to also seek the views of near neighbours and the wider community</li> <li>An article on social media and in Fios may be helpful</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sub-group to form, meet at site and present ideas, progress, costs etc at next meeting</li> <li>Also to attend to publicising intentions and seeking opinions</li> </ul> | <b>SJ/IMI/KM/MM</b> |



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| 6. | <b>Clan Macquarrie Interpretation Panel</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was agreed to create a sub-group to investigate the possibility of creating a panel or cairn etc to mark the site of the grounding of the Clan Macquarrie in 1953.</li> <li>With the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the event upcoming, the timing for considering this was felt to be appropriate</li> <li>Clan Macquarrie Community Centre happy to be involved – KM, MN, DMD, IM sit on both committees and will keep CMCC advised</li> <li>It may be a project to take forward with UOG's community benefit scheme, involving design, planning consents, township consent, contractors and installers among other aspects. Necessary expertise to be brought in to support.</li> <li>A suggestion to try and involve local primary school children in the early design phase was felt to be a good one</li> <li>A further consideration would involve protecting any structure from livestock given the common grazings nature of the likely site</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MN/DMD/RM/IM/KM comprising sub-group</li> <li>Group to meet to progress matters outwith ACC dates</li> <li>Report progress at future meetings</li> <li>Seek permissions necessary</li> <li>Obtain quotes/costings etc</li> <li>Seek funding avenues</li> </ul> | <b>MN/DMD/RM/IM/KM</b> |
| 7. | <b>AOCB</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CS raised concerns about neighbours at "Tom na Ba" parking on pavements leading to her property.</li> <li>Subsequent to close of the meeting, Elenor Macleay messaged and asked that bad potholes in Arnol area (main road from fish hatchery and up through Arnol) be looked at as well as pooling water in Barvas area already raised at meeting</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advice provided was for CS to report to HHP in first instance and to seek their advice</li> <li>Councillors?</li> </ul>  | <b>KM/JNM/DMS</b>      |
| 8. | <b>Date of Next Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 at 7.30pm, Clan Macquarrie Community Centre</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For Noting</li> </ul>  | <b>ALL</b>             |