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AIRIDHANTUIM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 16th January 2023 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) ; Donna Dorris (DD);

Councillors: Donald Macsween (DMS); John N Macleod (JNML)

Members of the community: Jim McCartney

Guests: N/A

Apologies: Mairi Macdonald; Luke Mackay; Kevin Matheson; Mathew Maciver; Councillor Kenny Macleod

Item		Action:	Action by:
1.	Welcome & Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none">RM welcomed all the attendeesApologies were noted as shown above		
2.	Minutes of the last Meeting plus Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">Minutes of the 7th November 2022 meeting were agreed as accurate, proposed by IM and seconded by MN		



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	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scrap problems (RM updated the meeting) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some progress achieved - with approx 6 vehicles cleared since the last meeting ▪ Goodwill acknowledged as being needed from all concerned ▪ MacLaughlins/Stornoway Skip Hire continue to be active and are quite efficient at removing vehicles within a two week period of requests – free uplift until end January ▪ Fios have been active around scrap and waste recently – ○ Upper Shader kiosk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No change to previous situation, BT awaiting engineer availability for decommissioning the kiosk prior to formal handover to ACC (all paperwork has been signed by us) ○ Tom na Ba bus shelter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Most recent estimated costs of supply, delivery and erection of the shelter using CnES shelter supplier was £6,000 including VAT - which is approx £2,400 more than we had originally budgeted. ▪ The shelter was ordered via CnES despite the financial challenge given our intention is to now fund any shortfall from the recent re-allocation of WILL funding and if necessary thereafter, as looks likely, from our Social/Admin cash resources ▪ Update from CnES today was that the shelter is ready for collection in Glasgow by Hebrides Haulage (CnES arranging) ○ Local Authority actions – old school, bus shelters, streetlighting, pavements, road gritting etc <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Old school still showing under offer currently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • we will write to Fios suggesting a collaborative campaign covering all of North Lewis • Retain on agenda, chase up ahead of next meeting • Retain on agenda and follow up end January • Noting 	<p>RM</p> <p>DMD</p> <p>DMD</p> <p>DMD</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Streetlighting could be problematic for any new installations – Councillors suggesting much will depend on the next capital budget awards to CnES. Meanwhile JNM advised that lights in each ward are checked approx every 5/6 weeks. DMS advised that any lights on overnight or beyond the expected cut-off time should be reported to CnES (although the Council is seemingly only charged for the hours “declared” as being operational not for overnight etc) ▪ 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 previously asked anew to give it attention on behalf of ACC. Pleased to note that activity on this has started in Ballantrushal/Shader area and expectation is that High Borge and Melbost will be tackled soon too. ▪ Road gritting – we wrote to CnES subsequent to the August 2022 meeting. Response from CnES included that we could appeal formally but also the following included: 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. and 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noting – plus reporting by individual CC members where issues are evident • Noted, with thanks to CnES/Councillors • 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 • JNML advised that he understands the Council have been going “beyond policy” when needed recently due to ice and snow conditions 	ALL
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gunnera problems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UOG are keen to train local people in safe use of weedkiller and gunnera destruction going forward given a full eradication programme may take several years to be successful. ○ Potholes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recent snow, ice and frost etc has exacerbated the ongoing issue of road surfaces/potholes etc. ○ Melbost Village Bridge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ E-mail response received via KML from CnES engineer ○ Galson Speed Limit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A Scot Gov initiative on which little further update can be expected before mid-2023 per Councillor K Macleod at a previous meeting. It does appear that Galson is on the list of villages being considered however. ○ Northland Power <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No further communication or correspondence received or sent since their attendance in Spring 2022 by conference call ▪ DMS believes a new Community Liaison Officer has been appointed by Northland – Eilidh Whiteford possibly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-engage with UOG after prior to next meeting and in advance of the next growth season • Councillors have advised any poor road surfacing should be reported as a safety concern – via CnES “Report It” page on their website. Usually good at repairing if a genuine road safety issue • Clerk to write to Engineer directly for clarification of the risks identified and mitigants planned • Noted – retain on agenda • Noted – retain on agenda 	<p>DMD</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>DMD</p> <p>DMD</p> <p>DMD</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ferries Community Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Previous presentation to ACC noted (Nov 2022) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No further action at this time 	
3.	<p>Financial Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasurer was not in attendance but provided a written Report in advance of the meeting, for noting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Latest balance of account being £13,622, now allocated to the following as a result of recent agreements reached with Western Isles Lifestyle Lottery and with CnES as admins for Crown Estate funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coastal/Shader River Walkway £ 721 ▪ Galson Bus Shelter £5,309 ▪ Clach an Truiseal £ Nil ▪ Admin/Social/General £7,592 • We are now be able to retain and use previous 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For noting • 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 	DMD
4.	<p>Picnic Area at Borve Bridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-group recently met at site (and invited along two residents who live nearby to get their inputs) • Intention is to clear and dispose of the old picnic area • Also to scrape the whole area and path approaching it with an excavator • Retaining narrow area near High Borve main road entrance and measure to prevent vehicles accessing the path 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IMI to provide some costings 	IMI



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offlets for water to be added • DMS suggested heavy duty plastic benches might be suitable – akin to those UOG have installed at Tom na Ba • DD suggested large pebbles to decorate any new areas • A tidy-up of the trees nearby might be helpful • An article on social media and in Fios may be helpful to advise the community of what is planned and to get ideas perhaps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SJ to explore seating options/costs • Draft a Fios article and include photos 	<p>SJ</p> <p>SJ</p>
5.	<p><i>Clan Macquarrie Interpretation Panel</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Viewed as a potential 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.</i> • <i>RM/DMD/IM met at Borge Shore and have identified the favoured location/site</i> • <i>Local primary school (SATS) happy to help in the early design phase – a drawing "competition" likely</i> • <i>The local authority have advised that the installation will require planning consent</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In due course, once costings are clearer • To arrange a school visit and talk with pupils and to set the "task" of the design of the panel • In due course, when design and plan of the site is finalised 	<p>DMD</p> <p>RM/MN/DMD/IM</p> <p>DMD</p>
6.	<p><i>Deer Problems on roads/in villages</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Noted recent "out of season deer cull announcement" by UOG – restricted to part of Galson however</i> • <i>Noted that this cull needed UOG to obtain special permission – on basis that the area concerned is felt to be causing a significant road safety concern</i> • <i>DMS advised that 3 syndicates locally have also been tasked with culling in-season – in due course. He also advised that the actions to be taken was not felt to be a quick fix to this wide-spread problem</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All noted - with action in other parts of the community awaited 	



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7.	<p>AOCB</p> <p><i>Waste/littering issue at Melbost was highlighted by a resident</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Feeling was this was being dealt with by agents of the site owner – but that wet weather had delayed completion of the clean-up</i> <i>Discussion took place regarding croft neglect generally</i> <i>General view was that such issues should be reported to the Crofting Commission</i> <i>Possibly a matter for individual Grazings Committees to take a view on rather than the Community Council</i> <p><i>No road sign for Borve nearby the Borve/High Borve bridge</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>JNML recommended highlighting to John Macleod, CnES Tech Services</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair to raise with Galson Grazings Comm Clerk to write to CnES 	<p>RM</p> <p>DMD</p>
8.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 13th March at 7.30pm, Clan Macquarrie Community Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Noting 	<p>ALL</p>