



*Vice Chair*  
**Mathew Maciver**  
6 High Borge  
Isle of Lewis  
01851 850358

*Chair*  
**Roderick Martin**  
8 Melbost, Borge  
Isle of Lewis  
01851 850445

*Clerk*  
**Donald A Macdonald**  
27 Borge  
Isle of Lewis  
01851 850751

**E-mail: [airidhantuimcc@gmail.com](mailto:airidhantuimcc@gmail.com)**

## **AIRIDHANTUIM COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7.30pm**

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

### **In Attendance:**

**Office Bearers:** Chair; Roderick Martin (RM) Chair; Donald A Macdonald (DMD), Clerk/Secretary; Mathew Maciver (MM), Vice Chair

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

**Councillors:** Kenny Macleod (KML);

**Members of the community:** Jim McCartney; Murray Graham; Marina Matheson; Elenor Macleay

**Apologies:** Luke Mackay; Kevin Matheson; Councillor J N Macleod; Councillor Donald Macsween; Donna Dorris

<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</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b><i>Minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 meeting were agreed as accurate, proposed by IM and seconded by RM</i></b></li></ul>	Provide a copy of these Minutes to CnES	<b>DMD</b>



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3.	<p><b>Matters Arising from Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Scrap problems (RM updated the meeting)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Small element of progress noted – but with much remaining to be done</b></li> <li>▪ <b>MacLaughlins/Stornoway Skip Hire continue to be active and are quite efficient at removing vehicles, often within a two week period of requests – noted that their free uplift period is extended further.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Upper Shader kiosk</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Minimal change to previous situation, BT say however that an engineer resource for decommissioning has been identified now - needed prior to formal handover of the kiosk to ACC (all paperwork has already been signed/returned). Last chased up by us on 10<sup>th</sup> May.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Gunnera – training and treatment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Urras training course (6 people x 3 days) fully subscribed and our understanding is these trainees are to be paid to carry out treatment and can also supervise additional untrained volunteers locally.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Melbost Bridge – diarised to follow up/check again with CnES in November 2023</b></li> <li>○ <b>Galson Speed Limit</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>A Scot Gov initiative on which little further update can be expected before mid/end-2023 per Councillor K Macleod at a previous meetings. It does appear that Galson is on the list of villages being considered however.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The item may need input from CnES, SEPA, Crofting Commission and UOG among others</li> <li>• Stornoway Gazette have covered the wider issue throughout the islands and we understand are working on a follow-up</li> <li>• Retain on agenda, try and involve <i>fios</i> again too</li> <li>• Retain on agenda and obtain update before next meeting</li> <li>• Retain on agenda for monitoring</li> <li>• Noting</li> <li>• Diarise for November 2023</li> </ul>	<p><b>DMD</b></p> <p><b>RM</b></p> <p><b>DMD</b></p> <p><b>DMD</b></p> <p><b>DMD</b></p> <p><b>DMD</b></p> <p><b>DMD</b></p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Northland Power</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Consulation open event held at UOG Galson in early May, for township clerks and shareholders potentially affected by sub-station site(s) and land-based bird etc surveys relating to that</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Sea-bed surveying also starting shortly</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Further community open day drop-ins planned in Lewis, for mid-June we understand</i></li> <li>▪ <i>No comms with ACC from Northland since last year's minuted ones</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Deer Problems on roads/in villages</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Noted that cull was ongoing, involving 3 recognised shooting syndicates</i></li> <li>• <i>Noted that problems exist throughout the CC area</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Bus Services – correspondence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Secretary has written to the consultants/ reps of Transport Scotland in relation to concerns outlined in our previous Minutes (13<sup>th</sup> March)</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Crown Estate Funding via CnES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>to local community organisations</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those at this ACC meeting who attended felt the answers to questions asked of Northland were still quite vague – due, it is thought, to the very early stage the project is at</li> <li>• We will retain on Agenda for our future meetings</li> <li>• Report any recurring issues/concerns to UOG</li> <li>• No response as yet</li> <li>• Not directly impacting ACC – but Councillors advise that groups who applied should hear about decisions imminently</li> </ul>	<p><b>DMD</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>Noting</b></p> <p><b>Noting</b></p>
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4.	<p><b>Correspondence:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>HPMAs</b></li> <li>• <b>Angus Gillies, Upper Shader</b></li> <li>• <b>Speeding Traffic</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We had responded, with Whatsapp authority from the majority of members, to Alasdair Allan MSP/Mairi MacAllan MSP to register our opposition to the HPMA proposals within the recent Scot Gov consultation</li> <li>• Correspondence from and responses to Mr Gillies were discussed – no further requirement to correspond at this time</li> <li>• We had written to CI Jane Mackenzie after our previous meeting regarding ongoing problems of traffic breaching designated speed limits on our main roads. Response received – main elements include increased patrols and a request from CI Mackenzie that persistent offenders be reported via non-emergency 101 line or via website.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Noting</b></p> <p><b>Noting</b></p> <p><b>Noting</b></p>
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5.	<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>Clean audit report received from CnES re Accounts for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023</li> <li>Latest balance of account being £10,866 at 17/5/23, now allocated to the following as a result of previous agreements reached with Western Isles Lifestyle Lottery and with CnES as admins for Crown Estate funding:                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coastal/Shader River Walkway    £ 721</li> <li>Galson Bus Shelter                      (now fully paid for)</li> <li>Borge Bridge Picnic area            £1,624</li> <li>Admin/Social/General                £8,521</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>WILL appear to be happy to offer a further £1,000 towards the picnic area works – although it may be we will look to use some of that towards another project if there is a surplus of funding (perhaps towards the Clan Macquarrie memorial)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The support of our Hon Treasurer, Donnie, noted with thanks</li> <li>Note that CnES need to be advised when the alternative projects we have in mind for their Crown Estate funding are ready to “go” – giving a note of the specifics plus before/after photos</li> <li>Ditto with any spend of any WILL funds</li> </ul>	DMD
6.	<p><b>Road Safety Upper Shader Village/Main road junction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site meeting took place with Councillor JNML and 2 Council officers attending along with an Upper Shader resident and ACC members</li> <li>Subsequent discussions with landowner at junction took place</li> <li>Follow-up emails with Council officers also</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some improvement to visibility for drivers can be achieved by cutting down/back a tree growing at the junction – needs cooperation from the householder there – and we await a decision on that</li> <li>The initial expectation that replacing an adjacent stone wall section with rylock-style fencing could achieve further visibility improvement does not now appear to deliver that. The owner of the</li> </ul>	



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		<p>wall was happy for it to be replaced as described however the Council officers have reported that it won't make a material difference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will reconsider this matter at a future meeting</li> </ul>	<b>DMD</b>
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Projects:</b></p> <p><b>Picnic Area at Borge Bridge</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intention is to clear and dispose of the old picnic area</li> <li>Also to scrape the whole area and path approaching it with an excavator</li> <li>Retaining narrow area near High Borge main road entrance and measure to prevent vehicles accessing the path</li> <li>Offlets for water to be added</li> <li>A grant from CnES Challenge Fund (£1,000) recently secured for this project</li> <li>DD had previously suggested large pebbles to decorate any new areas</li> <li>A tidy-up of the trees nearby might be helpful</li> <li>A price of £900 for all site clearance etc excavator work has been secured as has a cost of £1,184 for 3 heavy duty recycled plastic benches</li> <li>Western Isles Lottery appear to be happy to match-fund the CnES Challenge fund monies</li> </ul> <p><b>PTO</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project ready to proceed with – likely within next month</li> <li>Secretary to order benches once excavation/tidy-up work has been started</li> <li>Grant funding referred to of £1,000 to be used as well as the balance of costs to be hopefully received from WILL and/or taken from our social/general funds</li> </ul>	<b>DMD</b>



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	<p><b>Clan Macquarrie Interpretation Panel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>RM/DMD/IM met at Borve Shore and have identified the favoured location/site</li> <li>Local primary school (SATS) have helped with the early design phase – a drawing "competition" has just concluded following a successful, well-received school visit by RM/MN to explain the background and set them the design task</li> <li>Drawing/design "winners" selected and they together with SATS will receive gift vouchers to a total value of £100 from ACC shortly</li> <li>The top 2 drawings chosen by ACC members and others present (drawings selected were by Isla Matheson and Angus Finlay Thomson) will be provided to a designer to help formulate some design ideas for our consideration.</li> <li>The local authority have advised that the installation will require planning consent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In due course, once costings are clearer</li> <li>Secretary to follow up with the school re gift vouchers/presentation to the winners etc and ideally some publicity/PR</li> <li>DMD to approach a designer locally to explore costs/timescales etc</li> <li>In due course, when design and plan of the site together with cost indications are finalised</li> </ul>	<p><b>DMD</b></p> <p><b>DMD</b></p>
9.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SJ suggested some signage should be pursued for the staggered/concealed junctions in Borve – village &amp; phone box/Church St/Shop Rd/Borve Hse &amp; village             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Particularly relevant given recent car crash nearby and previous similar incidents</li> </ul> </li> <li>RM asked Shader and Ballantrushal residents/members to consider projects they may wish to see the Community Council pursue for their areas. Similarly, that it would be good to see attendance and ideas from/for the Galson community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approach CnES, copying in our Councillors</li> </ul>	<p><b>DM</b></p> <p><b>DMD/ALL</b></p>
10.	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at 7.30pm, Clan Macquarrie Community Centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For Noting</li> </ul>	<p><b>ALL</b></p>