

Tiree Community Council

Date	02/03/2016
Time	7.30pm
Venue	An Talla
Present	Councillors Present: Alison Kennedy, Ian Gillies, John Holliday, Rosemary Omand, Paul Le Roux, Rhoda Meek Trust Staff Present: Louise Reid 10 Members of the Public

1. Welcome and apologies.

- JH welcomed Rhoda Meek and Paul Le Roux as new community councillors.
- There were no formal apologies received.

2. Declaration of interests.

- None.

3. Matters arising from Previous Minutes.

- *JH* has written to the Chief of Police in Oban regarding the possibility of a drink driving initiative but as yet there has been no response.
- Police Scotland is now producing a monthly report which will be given to Community Councils to present at their monthly meetings. We expect the next report for Tiree to be released later this month.
- After attempts to have paper copies of a letter concerning cuts proposed by Argyll and Bute Council to be distributed amongst the district councillors it was found these had failed to reach the recipients. This caused some concern to Tiree Community Council, but it was agreed to take the matter no further.
- It was decided as a priority to write to the Councillors to invite them to attend upcoming meetings. As well as this they would be added to the Community Council mailing list to ensure they receive all minutes and agendas.
- ***There being no other matters arising the minutes were proposed by IG and seconded by RMO.***

4. Correspondence

- None to report.

5. Council Cuts

- The Chair briefly summarised the cuts which had been agreed and published by Argyll and Bute Council on 11th February.
- The main sectors being affected are Tiree High School, Tiree Service Point and the Local refuse collection. In addition to these, cuts will also have an impact on the roads department of Argyll and Bute Council. It was noted that Jim Smith (Head of Roads and Amenities for Argyll and Bute Council) and Councillor Roddy MacCuish will be visiting Tiree to discuss both the refuse issue and the roads. There is no date set for this meeting as yet.
- A number of questions and comments were received concerning the following issues -

Refuse Collection

- When it is windy rubbish is often blown across the road from the bins of holiday homes in particular. Whose responsibility is it to collect this if there are no tenants there?

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- The council is generally quite good at picking up rubbish left at the side of the road. Will this service continue, or will rubbish now be left on the public road?
- The dump is only open for limited hours meaning the change in collection schedule will have a big impact. It was agreed to write to the council to request that the Dump opening hours be extended.

Education

- At present there is limited information regarding individual posts.
- The Library service cut will take effect on 14th August.
- There has also been a 5% cut in clerical staff.
- There have been no cuts affecting classroom assistants but there have been cuts made to the pupil support assistant service.

Library Service

- This is a major concern at the moment.
The saving is expected to be £191,000 which would mean the loss not only to the school but also to the entire community of the library facilities. It is believed that the school would struggle to maintain and run the library as there is a large stock of books. This happening at a time when there has been an overall general increase in usage at the library.
- There is currently a petition ongoing in Tobermory to save the library in Mull. This is largely being run by the PTA in Mull and is heavily supported by the Community Council there. It was agreed to support the petition being run by Tobermory PTA.
- There is a statutory requirement for a library to give adequate provision to the community, depending on the population. We are not sure yet exactly what the population requirements are.
- It was also agreed to build an individual support case for the Tiree Library, it was agreed that the PTA will lead this with support from the Community Council. *IG* and *PLR to action*.

Service Point

The cut to this has been decided upon by Argyll and Bute Council, but at present there is no third sector agreement to take over the service point.

- The Third sector organisations on Tiree are Tiree Community Business and Tiree Community Development Trust. Each organisation has been offered £10,000 to take this on, however neither of these groups have agreed to the proposal and discussions are still ongoing.
- The Service point currently provides all emergency services on Tiree with an emergency response plan, If there were to be no service point then there would be no-body to co-ordinate the volunteer emergency services. This is thought to be a serious health and safety issue.
- Jura and Colonsay are already running with the proposed model. As yet there has been no contact made with these communities.
- It was thought that by implementing these cuts a great deal of community access to the council will be lost while at the same time council tax rates remain unchanged.
- As yet it is unsure what the effect will be if no Third Sector Organisation agrees to take over the Service Point.

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- The question was asked that if the Third Sector did take this on, would the person who takes over the position be qualified to carry out the registration of births, deaths and marriages. And to conduct marriages?
- It was noted that this may not be sustainable for TCB and the Trust to take on as all costs would have to be absorbed including the rent of an office.
- It was agreed to take this matter to the next closed meeting to find a strategy.

6. Education Participation Request

- There has not been much progress made on this.
- It was noted that at the previous charrette session it was highlighted how central Tiree High School is life on Tiree.
- It was agreed to allow the PTA to lead on this with support from the Community Council.

7. Argyll Ferry Users Group

- *IG* presented a brief report on his attendance at the Argyll Ferry Users Group on the 16th February.
- The Argyll Ferry Users Group, (FUG), is a statutory organisation which seeks to obtain the views of a wide range of Argyll and Barra/South Uist stakeholders and to report areas of concern directly to Transport Scotland and the Transport Minister. Meetings usually take place every six months.
- Neither Tiree nor Coll has previously been invited to attend meetings of FUG and since the formation of Tiree Community Council *IG*, along with *JMC* have looked at rectifying this oversight. Having successfully forced our way onto FUG in December 2015, *IG* attended the first meeting as a representative of both Tiree and Coll community councils on 16th February. The interests of Tiree and Coll have not been adequately represented up until now at FUG meetings by A&BC representatives. This will change as either *JMC or IG* intends from now on to attend the 6 monthly meeting.
- Specific topics of conversation were;
 1. There was much discussion, (S. Uist, Mull), particularly, around the skippers taking incorrect forecasts, and/or the forecast changing. Something has changed within the CalMac process for deciding upon bad weather disruptions and *IG* suggested that CalMac investigate why skippers no longer use NOWCAST, preferring now apparently to use XC Weather. This may be partly the problem. And NOWCAST is a professional, paid for service.
 2. Oban trains ex Glasgow Queen Street will be routed through Queen Street low level between **20th March and 7th August** while renovations take place on the upper level tunnels.
 3. Winter CalMac timetables are with TS for its comments, but have to be signed off by the Minister in principle before going out to consultation to Coll/Tiree. *IG* warned about the urgency now of Ministerial approval as we approach the Scottish parliament dissolution in the run up to the election in May. A representative from the Scottish Government will try to get immediate Ministerial attention to the matter.
 4. Ferry freight fares report. This 125 page report will be discussed at next Tiree Transport Forum meeting
- Next meeting of FUG will be a special additional meeting during April to discuss 2016/2017 winter timetables and possibly the Freight Charges report.

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- **IG and JMC** will continue to keep TCC and the public up to date with the FUG minutes on our website as soon as they are available.
- **RO and IG** attended a CalMac meeting regarding the upcoming tender and it seems that at present CalMac is the most popular choice.

8. Islands Bill Update

- The consultation period on the provision of a future islands Bill closed on the 23rd December. The number of responses received by the Scottish Government was 181. Tiree Community Council made a full submission to the consultation. The public submissions were made available for viewing on Monday 29th February.
- The Scottish Government's ambition in seeking responses to a future Islands Bill states;
'The aim of this consultation is to seek the views of interested stakeholders on plans for more power and protection for Scotland's islands. These views will help shape the development of a future islands bill that will allow the islands to build a more prosperous and fairer future for their communities.'
- All comments are available online.

9. Elderly Care on Tiree

- The previously planned care home project has now been dropped as the funding window has been closed. This means the use of Tigh a Rudha will continue.
- It was agreed to keep pressure on the Council and Scottish Government for more up to date equipment etc.
- The funding which could potentially see a new care facility will once again be opened in 2019.

10. AOCB

- **Pat Boyd Retirement**
 - Tiree Community Council has been invited to the retirement event at the Cobbled Cow.
- **Orkney Trip**
 - The island of Westray in Orkney is similar to Tiree in terms of population and services, and it was agreed that it would be useful to go on a 'study visit' to look at the differences and similarities between the two places. It was agreed to investigate funding through the Trust and HIE.
- **Coll Mast**
 - An email has been received from Development Coll regarding the electricity cost of their 3g mast. As Tiree is benefiting from this, they have requested a donation be made to help ease the cost of their electricity bill. TCDT have requested cash flow and evidence of cost before considering the donation. It was agreed that this is an appropriate way forward.
- **Charrette**
 - The first charrette session saw a good response. The next session will take place week beginning 7th March.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9.30pm. Thanks was given to all who attended and the date of the next meeting will be Wednesday, 6th April.

