

# Tiree Community Council

<b>Date</b>	06/03/2016
<b>Time</b>	7.30pm
<b>Venue</b>	An Talla
<b>Present</b>	<b>Councillors Present:</b> Alison Kennedy, Ian Gillies, John Holliday, John MacCaskill Iona Campbell <b>District Councillor Present:</b> Roddy MacCuish <b>BBC Alba:</b> Seonaidh MacKenzie <b>Trust Staff Present:</b> Louise Reid 6 Members of the Public

## 1. Welcome and apologies.

- JH welcomed all present to the April Community Council Meeting and gave thanks to Roddy MacCuish and BBC Alba for their attendance.
- Apologies were received from Rhoda Meek, Paul Le Roux and Rosemary Omand.

## 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, however as yet there has been no response.
- Police Scotland have said that they will now produce a monthly report which will be given to Community Councils to present at their monthly meetings. It was noted, however that there has been no report received since December.
- It was noted that Roddy MacCuish does receive the minutes of meetings though Danielle Finlay. The Councillors, however, do not receive the Agendas.
- Jim Smith will now be visiting Tiree on the 16<sup>th</sup> May.
- **Service Point**
  - As yet there has been no progress made with the service point discussions. The question of the future of the service point is currently in the hands of Argyll and Bute Council, who are to set out the final details of the amended post. There will, it is believed, be a slight reduction in office hours. However, the post will remain but with no offer of additional hours.
  - It was noted that the service point is currently closed at present due to staff holidays. No cover has been put in place in place to deal with urgent matters such as births, deaths etc.
  - It was also noted that documents such as bin collection calendars are no longer available at the service point and contact now has to be made with Oban to get this information.
  - RMC said that there should be cover when an employee is on holiday and that bin collection information should be made available on Tiree. RMC to action.
  - It was also noted that there are certain hours within the service point position which are being paid for by the wrong department meaning such a large cut may not be necessary. It was further noted that RMC is lobbying against this issue.
- **Ferries**
  - JMC circulated a draft winter 2016/2017 CalMac ferry timetable which included a single ferry deployment and standard sailing times on Monday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, leaving Oban at 7.15am.

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- The Tiree Transport Forum has found this acceptable and would like to hear the opinion of the Community Council and the public.
  - It was noted that it would be beneficial to see a change in ferry days with the sailings being carried out on a Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This would be beneficial to both the outlets and the hauliers on the Island. No additional sailings can be provided but it would appear that there may be some movement available on the question of the sailing days. Coll and Barra will have to be consulted in any recommended changes to the proposed timetable. At present Coll is at a similar stage to Tiree with the publication of the proposed timetable.
  - Within the CalMac Ferry plan it was stated that Tiree would eventually receive five or six sailings during the winter period.
  - Currently, the timetable is changing every year. However with the Community Council now in place discussions can take place more frequently and potentially at a higher level with CalMac and Transport Scotland. It was agreed that it would be beneficial to try to secure a more permanent timetable which meets the needs of the community.
  - The decision to include the Barra link in the summer timetable has proved beneficial in transporting dangerous good to the island. It was noted that the Community Council in Barra would like to meet with Tiree Community Council to strengthen connections and working relationships.
  - The proposed timetable will be available on the website for anyone to comment upon.
- It was noted that a representative from Coll will be coming over to Tiree to discuss a contribution to the 4G Mast costs. The mast is providing a much better mobile and a 4G signal to the east end of Tiree is it is felt that perhaps we ought to help out with the cost of electricity to run the mast
  - ***There being no other matters arising and pending an agreed change, the minutes were proposed and seconded.***

### 4. Roddy MacCuish

- Roddy MacCuish gave a brief introduction and highlighted some key issues for discussion, the main points are as follows:
  - During the recent programme of council expenditure cuts, 1.46 million pounds has been cut internally amongst councillors. Proposals to cut £1.4 million from education resources etc. were rejected by councillor. There is a document available to the public which outlines in detail all cuts which were passed and all those which were rejected.
  - Over the past three years Tiree has received £14,134 via Argyll and Bute Third Sector Grants, with a projected £6,000 being allocated in 2016. £5,000 from the Scottish government has also recently gone to finance the recent charrette, which provided a forum for discussion about the island's social and economic situation.
  - The current head teacher of Tiree High School is scheduled to retire after the summer holiday. The head of education for Argyll and Bute Council will meet with the PTA to discuss future options.
  - Before the proposed three weekly bin collection details are confirmed there will be an opportunity for this to be discussed at a public meeting.
- A number of questions and comments were then received from both the councillors and the public.

**Q. The council team is now cut to two people and there are limited opening hours at the dump. Such things as graves etc. suffered last year due to a lack of staff. There are a number of concerns about this within the community.**

A. There have been recent interviews taking place for two positions in roads and amenities on Tiree. With reference to the refuse collection this will have to be taken up with the head of roads and amenities. Helensburgh also implements a three weekly bin collection, although a food waste bin is provided.

**Q. A recent statement from Mike Russell, MSP, highlighted the fact that the decision to cut school libraries was flawed, as the statutory duty of Argyll and Bute council to provide an adequate library service is not being fulfilled.**

A. There has been an impact assessment done in this case and the cut is not in fact illegal. The statement made by Mike Russell is therefore inaccurate.

**Q. Is there any way to reduce the travel costs incurred when council members travel etc.? Could technology be used in any way?**

A. Yes this is being looked into, geographically Argyll and Bute is challenging, but if the technology works effectively we are happy to use it. The use of webcasts etc. would ease the democratic divide between the public and the council.

## 5. School Library Campaign

- It was recently publicised that the Tiree High School library would close and there would be no service put in its place. A high level of lobbying took place and many letters of support were received from councillors as well as Mike Russell.
- A proposal has now been circulated amongst the councillors which sees the Library being rebranded as a public library, meaning it will be open 35 hours per week, 52 weeks per year. There has been a timetable put in place for opening hours which may be subject to negotiation.
- There are a number of initial issues arising. Will there be fewer hours for the school's use of the library and will the security of the building be impaired ?
- Members of the public who previously were allowed to visit the library during school hours will not be able to do so if the new proposals are put in place.
- The funds for this will come from the department of Public Libraries and will not be part of the education budget.
- It was noted that there may be a difference in quality of service coming from the new structure. Currently the library is run by a chartered librarian while under the new system a library assistant will be hired to take over the job.

## 6. Economic Development on Tiree: Discussions with Tiree Trust

- The recent charrette highlighted a number of interesting issues. It is hoped that there will be a solid and substantial output from the event to work towards a more sustainable future for the island.
- The facts and figures emerging from the charrette are necessary as evidence when applications are made for a large amount of financial support.
- The results will hopefully give the groups on Tiree a sense of cohesion which will make the community stronger as it will be working towards a common goal.
- A comment was then received from the public
  - **There are many consultations which take place on Tiree at which the very same things are said and there is usually very little done about anything!**

## 7. Communications: Mobile signal and Broadband

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- Brendan Dick from BT has confirmed that the subsea cable was indeed damaged by a fishing vessel recently but has now been repaired. This damage did slow down the fibre roll out slightly however it is still hoped to go live by the end of May. **AK to arrange conference call with BT.**
- It was noted that there are some extra funds available which could allow for further island coverage.
- It was agreed to write to Vodafone as the signal is becoming slightly worse than ever, particularly in the west end of the island. **AK + RMO to action.**

### 8. Telephone Boxes

- Deferred.

### 9. Air Passenger Duty Consultation

- There is currently a consultation regarding the discontinuation of Air Passenger Duty in Scotland. At present the UK pays the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest amount of Air Passenger Duty.
- Although this does not directly affect Tiree, it could potentially affect those travelling to and from the island using connecting flights.
- It was agreed to discuss this further and decide upon a position. **Councillors to action.**

### 10. Crofting Commission Elections Consultation

- Deferred.

### 11. Abandoned Vehicles

- While abandoned vehicles can be taken away there is currently no legislation which states that a trailer should be removed.
- **Roddy MacCuish agreed to take this issue further.**

### 12. Island Clean Up

- It was agreed to discuss with the Trust the potential of setting up a volunteer group to help keep the island clear of rubbish etc.
- There is currently an event called 'Clean4Queen' running which may be a suitable funding option.

### 13. Westray: Twinning with the Orkney Island

- An application has been made to the Trust for funding to go towards a trip to Westray this summer to engage with the community there on issues which affect both the Orkney island and ourselves. The island is of similar size and with roughly the same population.
- Those who attend will be expected to give a short presentation on their return.

### 14. Tiree Flag

- There will be a survey placed online and in An Tirisdeach regarding the possibility of a Tiree Flag.

### 15. AOCB

- It was noted that Alison Kennedy has stepped down as Secretary because she is leaving Tiree this summer. JH thanked AK for all the time spent on the Community Council.
- **Area Committee Meeting**

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- It was agreed no one would attend due to time constraints however a submission would be made in writing.
- **Planning Permission**
  - RO recently attended a planning permission session.
  - Although at present the community council do not comment on all planning permission applications, it was noted that the comments of the councillors do have a large impact on the final decision.
  - If the community is split on a decision a comment can still be useful.
- **Management Meeting Minutes**
  - It has been noted that there have been no minutes of management meetings produced by the Community Council.
  - It was clarified that there are no decisions made at these meetings and from now on these will be called pre-agenda meetings where no minutes will be required.

*There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9.45, thanks were given to all who attended and the date of the next meeting will be 4<sup>th</sup> May.*