

Tiree Community Council

Date	4 th May 2016
Time	7.30pm
Venue	An Talla
Present	Councillors Present: Ian Gillies, John Holliday, John MacCaskill, Iona Campbell, Rhoda Meek, Rosemary Omand. Trust Staff Present: Louise Reid 11 Members of the Public

1. Welcome and apologies.

- JH welcomed all present to the May Community Council meeting.
- Apologies were received from Paul le Roux.

2. Declaration of interests.

- RMO declared a conflict of interest under item 6 of the agenda, **Service point holiday cover.**

3. Matters arising from Previous Minutes.

- Police Scotland will now produce a monthly report which will be given to Community Councils to present at their monthly meetings. The report stated that there have been five crimes reported over the past month. Currently there is no trend to report.
- There has been no submission made to the air passenger duty consultation as it was felt at the last meeting there was no need to do so.
- Derek Crooks visited Tiree on the 27th April and placed 24 hour removal notices on various abandoned vehicles on the island. As yet there has been no movement from these vehicles however a response is awaited from Argyll and Bute as to what the next stage of this process is.
- As discussed in previous meetings it is the intention to send a group of individuals to Westray on an island comparison trip. The group will be representative of the community and will be expected to give a short presentation on their return. It was noted that there are various funding options available such as HIE. This will be discussed further with the Trust.
- **Meeting with Tiree Community Development Trust**
 - It was noted that Tiree Community Council will meet with the TCDT on Tuesday 10th May. The agenda items include, Charrette, Broadband, Hynish, Community Land Ownership, Council Budget Cuts, visit to Westray, Phone Boxes, Cittaslow, Tiree Flag, and Island Tidy.
 - It was suggested to add beach access and beach car parks onto the agenda; it is also believed that there may be some funding available for this type of project.
 - It was suggested by a member of the public to highlight this funding opportunity to John Bowler, the chair or Nadair Thiriodh.
- **Library**
 - Although there are some logistical errors to be resolved it was agreed that on the whole the outcome of the library is better than originally anticipated.
 - A number of questions and comments were then received from the public. *Should we continue to pursue the idea of gaining control of the budget and allocating it ourselves?*
It is unknown if the current librarian would be guaranteed the new library assistant post however it is assumed that it would be open to all applicants.

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- There being no other matters arising and pending an agreed change, the minutes were proposed by IG and seconded by JMA

4. Correspondence

- **Coll 3G Mast**
 - Development Coll has given an update on the situation with the electricity bill for the 3G mast. It is possible that another provider may take over the overheads associated with the 3G mast meaning that all costs would be covered by a third party.
- **Mayor of Vancouver**
 - A request was received from a group of people in Vancouver requesting that the community council write to the Mayor of Vancouver in support of the placement of a monument honouring Malcom MacLean from the Isle of Tiree, who was the first Mayor of Vancouver.
- **Mike Russel**
 - Mike Russell met with the Community Council and various other groups on a recent visit to Tiree.
 - Topics covered included broadband, phone signal, community engagement with Argyll and Bute Council and budgets.
 - A number of questions and comments were then received from the public and given by the council.
A number of local community groups are in the position where they feel that the smaller budgets could be used in a better way. If Tiree did receive power over the smaller budgets it could close the Tiree/Kilmory divide significantly.
There is also potential for the bigger budgets to be devolved as well.
It was confirmed that there will be no threat to the school budget.
 - It was agreed to write to the chief executive of Argyll and Bute Council to express the urge to lessen the democratic demographic deficit experienced by Tiree due to a lack of representation.
- **Views on Tiree Community Council and the Tiree Community gaining control of the budgets**
 - In principle this would appear to be a good idea; however the management skills on Tiree would have to be assessed to ensure that the community has the capacity to deal with the responsibility. This is needs to be investigated with caution.
 - If the budgets get cut in the future after control has been given to Tiree, then the community will have to make the difficult decisions.
 - It was noted that Jordon Hill School is currently in control of its own budget and suggested contact be made with the head teacher.
 - It was agreed to discuss the possibility of gaining control of budgets with Tiree Community Development Trust.

5. Communications

- **Broadband**
 - An update was recently published in An Tirisdeach regarding the fibre optic roll out.

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- A meeting recently took place with representation from Tiree Community Council, Tiree Community Development Trust, Tiree Broadband, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and BT.
- It is hoped that fibre optic broadband will be available for installation during the month of May, as noted previously the connection is dependent on distance and the further away a property is from its connected cabinet, the less effective a fibre connection will be.
- At present BT is currently looking for additional funding to try and ensure coverage is at a maximum. The Community Council alongside Tiree Broadband are also looking at other options.
- ADSL broadband will still remain available for those unable to benefit from a fibre connection.
- It was advised by Mark Vale to contact BT to thank them very much for the meeting and also re-iterate the importance of full coverage and to request that Tiree be considered for the installation of additional cabinets.
- Mike Russel also agreed to personally take the issue to BT. *RM to liaise*
- As yet it is unsure what effect the upgrade will have on CIT as it is dependent on customer numbers etc.
- **Vodafone**
 - After complaints of issues with the Vodafone signal in the West end, *RMO* contacted Vodafone and found out that there was a fault with the equipment and an engineer would attend the site to resolve it.
 - It was noted that these issues are on-going due to the mast possibly being re-positioned and agreed to continue to investigate this. *RMO to action*.
 - Vodafone are recommending the sure signal box to customers experiencing signal problems.
 - It was noted that after fibre is brought to Tiree the possibility of a 4G connection will be much more likely as it will be less expensive for the company to install.
 - It was clarified that the issues with the broadband speeds and the mobile signal are completely unrelated. It is difficult to find out where an individual's particular mobile signal is transmitted from, making it difficult to diagnose the problem.

6. Service Point Holiday Cover

- An update was received from Roddy McCuish regarding the holiday cover of the Argyll and Bute service point on Tiree. The main points are as follows:
 - Mhairi Renton manages the budgets for the service points throughout Argyll and Bute has stated that there is no funding to provide full time holiday cover for the Tiree Service Point.
 - There will still be a relief registrar in place to cover holidays and absences. If the relief registrar is not available then a call can be made to the Oban office.
 - During previous times of holiday leave the Oban office received only two enquiries by phone.
- It was agreed to write to Mhairi Renton to discuss the possibility of advertising times of service point closure in advance of the office being closed.

7. Phone Boxes

- The Community Council are currently looking into a possible project with the phone boxes on Tiree. The phone boxes could be purchased from BT at a cost of £1 each.

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- BT will remove the phone from the box but the electricity is still provided and payed for by BT. This process requires approval from Argyll and Bute Council to decommission the phone.
- There are many possible things which could be added to the phone boxes after purchased such as defibrillators, history trails, book exchanges and possible Wi-Fi hotspots.
- A number of questions and comments were then received from the public.
 - The phone boxes would have to be insured encase damage happens. Tiree Community Council would take responsibility for this.
 - The only cost Tiree Community Council would ensue would be the insurance cost; as yet it is unsure if TCC are covered by Argyll and Bute Council.
- It was agreed by those present to continue to investigate the project. **RM to action.**

8. Roads and Amenities

- It was noted that due to work commitments the upcoming meeting on 16th with Roddy McCuish and Jim Smith will have to be rescheduled for a later date. **JMA to action.**
- It was noted that there are now three members of staff working for the Tiree branch of the roads department.
- There is still a lack of signage on the island although some movement has begun with the placement of passing place poles. It is unsure if the installation of signage is a community, or Argyll and Bute Council led initiative.

9. Transport

• Ferries

- It was noted that due to live stock sales there will be a slight change to the timetable in September.
- There have been various comments received from the public with regard to the recent ferry cancellation due to bad weather. The ferry was cancelled the day before it was due to sail with the cause being bad weather.
- There was a live stock sale due to take place on the day of the cancellation; CalMac stated prior to this that even if the sailing were to go ahead there would be no cattle allowed on board due to the rough conditions.
- A number of questions and comments were then received from the public.
 - C. It is understandable to delay or cancel a sailing to do unsafe conditions; however there are times where the sailing could be delayed till a later time rather than being cancelled for the remainder of the day.*
 - C. It can be a good thing to know the sailing is cancelled early, as it means those travelling to Oban do not have to leave. However it is understandable that frustrations are felt by those in need of urgent travel arrangements.*
 - C. CalMac still have a duty to give priority to locals rather than tourists as the ferry service is a life line for the community.*
 - C. The sea conditions are very complex to determine, there are many variables which have to be considered when deciding to proceed with or cancel a sailing.*
- The weather forecasting software used by CalMac is Nowcast, this is said to be a reliable and professional means for trying to predict the sea conditions.
- It was agreed by those present to write to CalMac and request a full criteria for the cancellation of a sailing 24hrs prior to its timetabled departure, and

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investigate if these guidelines have changed within the past year. **RM to action.**

- **Planes**

- The summer timetable has been received for Tiree.
- It was noted that throughout the summer there are 50 variations allocated to Tiree flights, while Barra and Campbell town receiving none.
- It was also noted that a recent flight was cancelled due to turbulence. This is a very unusual event and Barra received a flight one hour later.
- It was agreed to write a letter to Loganair/Flybe to complain about these inconsistencies and attempt to come to a fairer solution.

10. Island Flag

- It was found that the majority of those who voted for an island flag voted in favour of the project.
- It was agreed that the Tiree Community Council would accept the vote and discuss the next stage of the project with Tiree Community Development Trust.
- New Zealand carried out a similar project in which case a large amount of community consultation took place organised by a repetitive panel of the community. It was suggested that Tiree would follow a similar process to carry this project forward.

11. Mortuary

- **JMC** gave a brief update on the mortuary situation on Tiree as there may be a possible area available for lease which is potentially more fit for purpose than the current arrangement and would also function as a chapel of rest.
- It was agreed to discuss this with Tiree Community Development Trust. **JMC to action.**

12. AOCB

- The PTA AGM is taking place on 5th May. There are currently discussions ongoing with Argyll and Bute Council for future recruitment options for Tiree High School.
- Tiree Community Council will hold an AGM during the month of June.
- It was noted that there is now a position available on the Community Council for a secretary.
- Thanks were given to Will Wright for organising another successful 10k and half marathon event.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 10pm, thanks were given to all who attended and the date of the next meeting will be 1st May.