

Tiree Community Council

Date	30 th November 2016
Time	7.30pm
Venue	An Talla
Present	Councillors Present: John Holliday, John MacCaskill, Jessie Grey, Ian Gillies, Rhoda Meek, Aisling Milne, Donnie Campbell Trust Staff Present: Louise Reid BBC Alba 25 Members of the Public

1. Welcome and apologies.

- The Chair welcomed all present to the Community Council meeting.
- Apologies were received from Rosemary Omand.
- A welcome was also given to representation from BBC Alba.

2. Declaration of Conflict of interest

- DC declared a conflict of interest under item 9 of the agenda, Education.

3. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

- It was agreed to write a letter of thanks to PLR for his time on the Community Council. *JH to action, c/fwd.*
- It was noted that information regarding the collection of rubbish has been posted to the Community.
- The first phone box steering group meeting has taken place, the notes will be circulated in due time. It was also noted that TCDT may assist in this project.
- The recent twitter hour for community councils was not attended by Tiree representation, however it is the intention to attend the next. *RM to action.*

4. Correspondence

- **Tiree High School-Youth Representative**
 - Pupils have been informed about the opportunity to join TCC as a youth representative, however there has been no interest expressed.
 - It was agreed DC and AM would visit the school to give some first-hand information as to what it means to be a councillor.
- **Joint Meeting with TCDT**
 - TCDT recently met with the Community Council, it was noted that this meeting was worthwhile, the main points from the meeting are as follows:
 - Due to low attendance at the recent public charrette meeting, another event with a different format will be held in early 2017.
 - The 'Team Tiree' concept was also discussed. This idea suggests the larger groups on Tiree will work together towards common goals. It was noted that it may not be structurally feasible for Tiree Community Council to be an official part of it, but TCC are keen to work alongside and support this project.
 - Discussion also took place regarding the Chapel of Rest project, TCDT are currently investigation how the management of the building would work. There are also a number of internal and external improvements needing done. It has

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also been suggested to contact Police Scotland with the possibility of including their mortuary in the facility.

- TCDT are currently doing a lot of work regarding the future of the islands harbours and other maritime facilities.
- Dr Buchannan's monument repair has also been handed over to TCDT to pursue. It was noted that the War Memorial repair is the responsibility of the District Councillor.

- **Minister for the Islands**

- It was noted that it is the intention for the Minister for the Islands and Transport to visit Tiree in early 2017. TCC have been also been invited to Edinburgh for a meeting prior to this. It was noted that there is a mixture of TCDT and TCC representatives working on an agenda for this. The group consists of, Ian Gillies, Rosemary Omand, Isabella MacKinnon, Sarah Le Roux, John MacCaskill and William Angus MacLean.
- A number of comments and suggestions as to other agenda items were received and are as follows:

C. It was suggested to allow the Minister to visit croft sites etc., to engage with the workers and the land.

A. It was noted that there may not be time for such visits but agreed that it would be beneficial.

C. It was also suggested to make a Charrette presentation and present a plan of action. (William Angus MacLean, TCDT, offered to do this)

C. There could also be potential to showcase the strong volunteering community on Tiree, and their fundraising achievements such as Cùram etc.

- It was noted that there will be another meeting held before the agenda is finalised. Currently suggested points for the agenda are Crofting (including animal transport), Cùram Thiriodh, Charrette Outcomes, Volunteering and Harbours.

- **Community Empowerment Bill**

- The Community Empowerment Bill will allow the transfer of infrastructure to communities. There is a feeling of caution amongst the community, however it was agreed to keep an eye on this.

5. Complaint against Tiree Community Council

- It was noted that the Tiree Community Council have received a complaint regarding the recent ballot held with regards to the Beach Huts. ***See appendix 1.***
- It is the intention to follow the complaints procedure which is available on the Community Council website.
- A discussion was had regarding the complaint and the councillors commented as follows:
 - It was suggested by a member of the council that the ballot was worded confusingly and that it was not agreed by all parties before it was published. The ballot was worded from the point of view of the council. Meaning consideration

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must be given to the fact that they are party to the dispute. Therefore an apology should be made with regards to the way the ballot was carried out. As well as this the ballot papers were not numbered.

- It was also suggested that, yes the wording may have been confusing but if read thoroughly it made sense what was being asked.
- The ballot was decided upon with advice given from Argyll and Bute Council, the question was understandable when read and an arbitrator may be the correct way forward in this case.
- An apology should not be issued at this time, as advice was sought from the Area Governance Officer of Argyll and Bute Council and the Election Officer. The question was simple when read, and a full response should be given to the complainant.
- More time is needed to discuss the complaint and collate an appropriate and considerate response.
- When a resolution is reached this will be discussed in public.
- A member of the public suggested that the ballot be held again with agreement on wording from all parties. It was noted that this cannot be done due to the circumstances of the complaint.
- A member of the public noted that the information sheet appeared to contradict the ballot paper and not highly informative to those who may have been previously unaware of all the facts.
- DC then proposed an apology be issued due to the agreement of all parties not being sought and the papers not being numbered. As there was no second to this, the proposal fell.
- JH then proposed the complaint be fully studied, a reply formed and agreed by all councillors would then be discussed at a public meeting and sent to the complainant, and the process continued as necessary. This was agreed by all except DC who declared his dissent due to the fact that the full item will not be discussed in public.

6. Areas of Responsibility for Community Councillors

- As there are new members on the council it was agreed to assign each an area to cover.
- It was agreed **RM** would cover fishing and agriculture, **JG** would assist **DC** on education and **AM** would work on environmental issues as well as environmental designations.

7. Policy for dealing with issues raised by members of the public

- It was suggested that Tiree Community Council should contact other groups who might already have expertise and a structure in place to deal with certain issues, for example if a group on Tiree is already dealing with recycling then this group should take the lead on an issue if it were to arise.
- It was also suggested that complaints for certain things on the island might be better dealt with if they are first tackled locally, rather than an individual coming to TCC for representation of a high of island level.

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- A member of the council suggested that the purpose of Tiree Community Council is to represent those who require assistance. A number of comments were received from the public and are as follows:

C. The community need to try for themselves first, only if a satisfactory response is not given then should they go to the community council for assistance.

C. It depends on what the issue is, if it effects only the individual then they should try themselves to resolve it, however if it effects the whole community, then the community council should intervene.

C. Each individual must show commitment to resolving their own issue.

C. There may be some cases where other groups on the island could assist such as TCDT or TCB. It would be good to have a checklist of all the groups on Tiree that might be able to help with certain issues.

C. It is mostly down to common sense, if someone can do it then they should. Of course the Community Council should help those who are venerable or unable to do it themselves.

8. Untidy/potentially dangerous areas at Pier View, Scarinish

- There has been a dangerous area identified in Pier View, there is an exposed electrical junction box and other debris in the area. As yet it is unknown who owns the land.
- The area is within the boundary of the West Highland Housing Association properties. Various bodies have been contacted but no one has come to fix the issue.
- It was agreed to write to Argyll and Bute Environmental Health Department regarding this issue. **AM to action.**

9. Pre-School Education

- It was noted that the Pre-5 unit has recently undergone change and is now only provides lessons in English and no longer in Gaelic. It was noted that this change was not consulted on.
- DC wrote to the Head of Education for Argyll and Bute Council regarding this concern, as yet no reply has been received.
- DC also met with the Deputy Head of Tiree High School regarding this matter and ascertained that the school was not clear on its Gaelic Medium Education position.
- DC suggested that the Community Council take the position of concern regarding the recent reduction of Gaelic Language in the Pre-5 unit with no consultation, and overall undermining of Gaelic.
- A number of questions and comments were then made by both the Council and the public:

C. After the trial ended earlier in the year, consolation did take place however there was a very low response rate. A meeting recently took place within the parents of those who attend the Gaelic Pre-5 unit and an official. The parents are going to carry out a consultation of what they would like to see being provided, including language, hours, etc. There has been no progress since the

meeting, however the working group is going and there is a process in place to hopefully improve the situation.

C. The Community should be the driver in this case as there are enough young children on the island to warrant two separate sessions, with the possibility of having both Gaelic and English.

C. It is extremely beneficial for those who intend to enter Gaelic primary school to be exposed to the language at an earlier age, to prepare for entry into school.

- It was agreed that as there is already a working group and a process in place the community council would not take the lead on this, but would provide assistance if necessary.

10. Outcome of Postal Ballot - Beach Huts

- A recent meeting public meeting took place with a high level of council representation to discuss planning permission for beach huts in both Balevullin and Gott. The decision made at the meeting was continuation to allow an ACE (Area Capacity Evaluation) Assessment to be carried out. The decision is expected to be made in Lochgilphead at the beginning of 2017.
- It was noted that even although the meeting yielded no cohesive result, it was beneficial and good for the community to have that level of council representation.
- A member of the community commented that the format of the meeting was not very well planned, suggesting that the time of the meeting was not very ideal and the closing statements not very well explained.
- It was noted that TCC have received a number of complimentary correspondence regarding the manner in which they handled the process. Members of the public expressed their agreement.

11. Cattle on the Reef - Driver Awareness

- It was noted that drivers need to be more aware of cows on The Reef and show caution when traveling. It was confirmed that any type of incident involving cattle on the reef leaves the driver completely responsible as the cows have the right to roam in this area.
- It was suggested by a member of the community that notices be placed in Tiree to alert people of the times which cows will be present.
- Another member of the public suggested fluorescent paint or other illuminous materials be used, however it was noted that due to weather conditions on the island, paints etc. do not last long.

12. Report on Tiree Transport Forum Meeting and Forward planning/CalMac winter 2017/2018 timetable

- Tiree Transport Forum (TTF) recently met with Transport Scotland, Calmac and Loganair representatives. The main points of the meeting are as follows:
 - Barra have requested extra flights on Fridays and Saturdays for 2017. It was noted that this may put pressure on the Twin Otter provision for Tiree, and if

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this were to go ahead, additional SABBS may have to be assigned to the Tiree route.

- It was agreed at the meeting to write to Calmac when additional sailings for events are needed.
 - Loganair are currently investigating the advertisement of 'Tiree Tasters' such as windsurfing and cycling trips, as well as possible Christmas shopping trips from Tiree to Glasgow.
 - There has been a number of complaints regarding the lack of time between the gate being announced and the call time, as well as this, sometimes the gate is changed at the last minute meaning it is difficult for the less able to get there in a timely manner.
 - It was also suggested that an elevator or some kind of assistance would also be of benefit to less abled people to get to gates 1 - 3.
 - It was noted that the Wednesday sailing is having a negative effect on the bus tour. CalMac is going to investigate the possibility of promoting the Tiree Tour and it was agreed to ask one of the bus operators to become a member of the Tiree Transport Forum. It was noted that RET may have also effected numbers to Tiree.
 - It was also mentioned that when arriving 45 minutes before early sailings in Oban, there is not always a CalMac worker there. CalMac agreed to investigate this.
 - The Clansman is expected to be deployed on the Tiree route next year, and it is the intention to run the double Saturday sailings again during peak times, this may vary slightly from 2016 arrangement due to more potential stops at Coll.
 - It is difficult to gather data regarding passenger numbers for Tiree and Coll, however it is hoped that the new system might help with this.
- The meeting was considered beneficial by all in attendance and the minutes will be made available on the website.

13. AOCB

- It was noted that there is no TCDT representative on the Community Council after PLR stepping down. TCDT is looking into this.
- It was noted that for events to benefit from extra sailings, engagement must be made with CalMac far in advance to arrange this, but CalMac are open to requests.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 10.30 the date of the next meeting is to be confirmed.