

Tiree Community Council

Date	1 st February 2017
Time	7.30pm
Venue	An Talla
Present	Councillors Present: John Holliday, Rosemary Omand, John MacCaskill, Ian Gillies, Rhoda Meek, Calen McNeil, Aisling Milne Trust Staff Present: Louise Reid 24 Members of the Public and representation from BBC Alba

1. Welcome and apologies.

- The Chair welcomed all present, apologies were received from Jessie Gray and Donnie Campbell. It was noted that a letter of thanks was written to Paul le Roux for his time on the Tiree Community Council.

2. Position of Tiree Community Council Vice Convenor

- It was noted that **JMC** is standing down from his current position as Vice Convenor of TCC, it was agreed that **RM** will now take on this position. Thanks were given to **JMC** for his invaluable contribution as Vice Convenor.

3. Correspondence

- A letter was received from Coll Community Council, in thanks for the recent visit from Tiree Community Council.
- Members of the Tiree Community Council will attend a conflict conference via video conference.
- The Screen Machine has also been in touch regarding the upcoming refit of the mobile cinema, they are using this time of inactivity to make some useful contacts.
Action Rhoda Meek
- Argyll and Bute Council has been successful in securing Scottish Government funding to let communities decide how £15,000 could be used to “strengthen and grow Gaelic” across the area. Ideas of how the money could be spent can be posted and discussed on the Argyll and Bute website between 23rd January and 6th March. **For noting.**
- A letter was received regarding some issues on the island, the fence surrounding Kilkenneth Chapel is damaged and there are now cattle etc. getting in which is making the damage worse. It was agreed to write to the crofter responsible for the area for permission to repair the fence. **Action Rhoda Meek & Dr John Holliday** .
It was also noted that there is an apparent broken down trailer left at Green Hill, it was agreed to leave this for the time being as the owner may be in the processes of making repairs.
- A consultation paper by the Scottish Government was recently circulated and reference was made to the suggestion that Tiree Community Council have more input when it comes to planning permission applications on the island.

4. Previous Minutes

- Aisling Milne has written to environmental health regarding the dangerous area at Pier View. At present it is difficult to find the correct contacts for the area, however it is hoped to get a response soon. It was also suggested to contact Roddy McCuish for some assistance.
- It was noted that the phone box group is continuing to hold regular meetings, and decided that the group would focus on one phone box for the time being which can be used as an example to help secure funding for the others. The theme of the first phone box is the herring boom on the island.
- It was noted that the Tiree Flag Committee have also met recently, the next step for the committee is to do some research and then to hold a competition, research is also taking place regarding a tartan for the island.
- JH read the police report for the past month, there have been no reported crimes and one report to the prosecutor fiscal. It was noted that a licence is now required for an air gun or pistol.
- It was noted that TCC met in January to discuss certain aspects of the way in which Tiree Community Council operates. The main points are as follows:
 - The physical layout of the meetings has changed slightly in the way that the tables are put together.
 - It was agreed to try and invite more guest speakers to attend the monthly meetings.
 - AOCB will be removed from the agenda, in the case that a member of the public would like something discussed this must be brought to the attention of TCC prior to the agenda being published 14 days before the next meeting. The reason for this is to give each issue the correct amount of attention and to allow the Councillors time to prepare an adequate and full response.
 - The minutes will also be published as quickly as possible and the meetings made as concise as the agenda will allow.
- Pending amendments, the minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by RM and seconded by JMC.

5. Proposed Written Response by TCC to complaint by Mr and Mrs Larg against Tiree Community Council.

- A reply has been written to the complainant which was circulated and discussed at a previous meeting. As per the policy of Tiree Community Council, complaints are to be dealt with in public. The main points of the response to the complainant are as follows:

Ballot paper bias

- Although TCC is conscious of this, advice was sought from the Governance Officer of Argyll and Bute Council, who advised the use of using the Planning Officers recommendation in the wording of the ballot question.

Suggestion that it was unfair to have Argyll and Bute Council involved in the preparation of the Ballot

- The Convenor recognised the concern expressed, but as the governance official deals with, and has responsibility for all community councils in Argyll & Bute, it was determined that bias on her part was improbable.

Covering Letter Confusing and Biased

- Tiree Community Council agreed that this could have been potentially confusing, as the ballot paper and the covering letter were written by two separate people, that the information presented in both documents did not necessarily complement each other.

There was nothing on the ballot or covering letter to show that there were people in favour of the Beach Hut

- Both covering letter and ballot were neutral.

TCC were approached by people requesting that the ballot be abandoned. Why was this not done?

- TCC received two direct requests to discontinue the ballot, however the amount of complaints was not representative of the whole community meaning the numbers were not significant enough to abandon the ballot.

The Vote should not have been published

- The results were published without comment and were for information and public interest only.

The Ballot papers were not numbered meaning the vote was open to manipulation

- A lot of consideration went into the way in which the votes would be handled, there was a concern that if a numbering system were to be used this would remove the anonymity of the vote and consequently the total number of ballot papers returned. As a precaution against tampering, TCC used a particular shade of pink coloured paper, a personalised stamp and a form of embossing on each ballot slip.
- **The Ballot was not representative of the whole community**
 - Tiree Community Council acknowledges that there are improvements to be learned by TCC from the ballot exercise.
 - The turnout was 78% meaning that the vote was representative of the whole community.
 - The ballot result was so emphatic, that even allowing for any misunderstanding, this would not have materially changed the overall outcome.
 - The ballot papers once returned were securely held in the TCB Ltd offices in an official ballot box, with the counting of the votes being carried out with help from Iain MacKinnon and Rona Campbell.

- A number of questions and comments were then received from the community.

Q. If legal action were to be taken against Tiree Community Council, would the letter to Mr & Mrs Larg hinder the position of the Community Council in any future legal proceedings?

Tiree Community Council

- A. It is the belief that the community council is protected under the Scottish law, it could be good however to get some legal advice. There is a limited amount of time as the response does have to be issued in a timely manner, however it was agreed to ask the Governance Officer for Argyll and Bute Council to look over it. JH to action*
- C. A member of the public suggested that this whole situation could have been avoided if planning permission was sought prior to the construction of the beach hut.*
- C. A member of the public also suggested that the Tiree Community Council's involvement is less significant than that of the Planning Department's recommendation, meaning the ballot would not have had that much of an impact on the final result.*
- C. Thanks were given to the Community Council for their time spent on this matter. It was agreed unanimously that this item will no longer appear on the agenda in the upcoming meetings.*

6. Tiree High School, Pre-5 Provision

- It was noted that after consultation from the Pre-5 working group, the Pre-5 sessions have been now split into two, the morning session is focused on English with the promotion of Gaelic with the afternoon session being completely Gaelic. All parents have the decision as to which of the two sessions they would like their children to attend.
- This new timetable began on Monday 30th January, and will continue until the end of the school year. It was noted that the double session is going well and good feedback has been received.
- It was agreed to invite the Head Teacher of Tiree High School to attend the next meeting. **Action, Ian Gillies**

7. Crown Estate in Scotland. Consultation by Scottish Government.

- The Scottish Government are currently running consultation on behalf of the Crown Estate with regards to the management of the sea bed.
- The Crown Estate are hoping to pass some of the management aspects of the land to the community. The Crown Estate is currently responsible for such things as sea-bed leases for moorings, fish farming, and off-shore renewables etc.
- The closing date for this consultation is the end of March.
- It was noted that a summary of the document would be put on the TCC website.
- It was also suggested by a member of the council that the TCC should make a response to this consultation and that the community should also be encouraged to comment. **Action Aisling Milne & Rhoda Meek**
- A member of the public also commented that during the time of the 'No Tiree Array' group, there were some issues regarding the Crown Estate/Scottish Government.

8. Transportation Update

Tiree Community Council

- It was noted that there have been a number of cancelled flights recently, this is mainly due to weather issues, however there have been a couple of operation issues.
- The poor visibility issue is being worked on, planes are now being fitted with equipment which will allow the current aircraft to land in more challenging conditions.
- There has been additional capacity granted for such island events as, TMF, Ultra-Marathon and 10K Weekend. This will hopefully improve not only the lifeline service for locals but also transport options for visitors.
- These recommendations mainly come from the Tiree Transport Forum meetings, where representatives from Transport Scotland, Loganair and CalMac Ferries regularly attend, and then take these suggestions forward where appropriate.
- Ferry transportation has also been increased during TMF weekend; this will also see a benefit to the Tiree and Coll community.
- It was also noted that there is an opportunity for a Coll Day trip on the 13th September 2017.
- It was noted that Audit Scotland are carrying out consultation regarding the ferry service and its value for money. It was agreed that TCC would comment on this. The community were also encouraged to get involved. **Action Ian Gillies**

Ring and Ride Service

- A member of the public enquired about the Ring and Ride service on the island. As it is unsure if there is a schedule for the bus, how easily can the bus be booked, does it benefit tourism etc.?
- It was noted that the bus operators have been invited to attend the next Tiree Transport Forum meeting to clarify how the buses are run and if there is anything the community can do to assist this etc.

9. Chapel of Rest Update

- Representatives from Tiree Community Council recently met with directors of Tiree Community Development Trust regarding the Chapel of Rest project.
- The proposed site at the Met Office is seen to be fit for purpose by both parties after some alterations to access, interior decoration etc. are made.
- The lease has not been signed as yet, however TDCT board of directors are meeting on 21st February to make the decision as to whether or not this project will be carried forward. Initial feedback however seems positive.
- It was noted that the majority of those at the meeting were in favour of seeing this project progress.
- It was agreed to write to Police Scotland regarding their future plans for mortuary provision on Tiree. **Action Ian Gillies.**
- A number of questions and comments were then received from the public.

Q. What are the current statistics, is there a need for a chapel of rest?

A. There is potential for a number of uses per year, although the church is also available, it may not always be an option, meaning the Chapel of Rest will provide an alternative.

C. The space is also big enough that a small service could also take place inside.

C. There could also be potential for TCDT to approach the Co-op for funding if they decide to continue with this.

10. Community Council Meeting with Humza Yousaf MSP

- Ian Gillies, Rosemary Omand and John MacCaskill from Tiree Community Council with Tish MacKinnon from Tiree Community Development Trust attended a meeting on 24th January in the Scottish Parliament Edinburgh, with the Minister for Islands/Transport, Humza Yousef MSP, our constituency MSP Michael Russel, and representation from both Transport and Broadband sections of the Scottish Government. This meeting was seen as a very useful and highly successful initiative. The main points from the meeting are as follows:
 - It was agreed that Humza Yousef would attend a meeting on the Island in Spring of this year, it is his suggestion to hold a surgery with all of the main community groups on the island.
 - With reference to the Islands Bill, it was suggested that to better be represented by the Scottish Government, the Tiree community should engage with this as much as possible. It was advised to contact Kevin Stewart MSP.
 - It was also mentioned that the Ferries Plan does not mention Tiree an adequate amount. Humza Yousef acknowledged that this will be brought up during the next annual review and that Tiree will have more input. It was also suggested that the statistics used by CalMac in the ferries plan are not an accurate representation of the actual number of passengers going through Tiree and Coll routes.
 - It was noted that there is a new fibre optic cabinet being placed in Scarinish to further extend the reach of the fibre service on the island. It was also noted that Tiree Broadband have been awarded £80,000 to carry out an upgrade to the local network, the work for this is expected to commence in March.
 - Planning permission for a 4G Vodafone/O2 mast has been approved on Beinn Gott, this is being completed by TCC, TCDT and the Scottish Futures Trust. EE also have plans to submit a planning application for a 4G mast on the island, this would further benefit the emergency services and Businesses on the island.
 - Mike Russel has agreed to write to Argyll and Bute Council with regards to the issues some crofters on the island are currently having trying to build homes on their own land.
 - The matter of airport security was also discussed. As of Monday 30th January, Tiree Airport no longer required security checks. It was noted that this was a Secretary of State signed order, whereby no community consultation was done.
 - Humza Yousef acknowledged the concerns of the Community and agreed to help where possible, however but advised that the decision is ultimately made by the secretary of state.
 - Brendan O’Harra MSP, is happy to escalate this on behalf of the community. It was noted that all jobs in the airport are currently safe due to the Government stating that there will be no compulsory redundancy.

Tiree Community Council

- It is a concern that through ticket services may be affected as there will be no security checks at the beginning of the ticket. It was also noted that customers who are travelling from Tiree to an onward destination will be allowed priority security checks whilst at Glasgow Airport. **Action IG to contact Loganair**
- On the whole it was agreed that the meeting was successful with good contacts being made, and is hoped to take place again in the future.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9.30PM.

The date of the next meeting will be 1st March.