

# Tiree Community Council - Minutes of Meeting

<b>Date</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
<b>Time</b>	7.50pm
<b>Venue</b>	An Talla
<b>Present</b>	<b>Councillors Present:</b> Robert Trythall, John Holliday, Ian Gillies <b>Trust Staff Present:</b> Shari MacKinnon <b>Public – 15</b>



## **Welcome and apologies**

- The chair welcomed all present, apologies were received from Alison Clark, Roddy McCuish and Jim Lynch.



## **Conflict of Interest**

- None.



## **Correspondence**

- It was noted that a workshop is being held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March regarding shared transport in Oban.
- Argyll & Bute Council's local development plan has been published on their website.
- A Police Scotland survey will be published on the TCC website. **RT to action.**
- An acknowledgement has been received from Argyll & Bute Council regarding the Island Bill correspondence.
- A report has been received from Police Scotland. It was noted that there have been six incidents reported since the last meeting which included a gate being stolen from the cattle grid between Hynish and Mannal.



## **Previous Minutes and Matters Arising**

- The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated and discussed.
- A member of the public has been in touch with issues relating to housing at Pier View and TCC is corresponding with West Highland Housing Association. **RT to action**
- A letter of congratulations was sent to Moira Kerr.
- Audit of public access defibrillators on the island is on-going. **RT to action.**
- An update from Calmac regarding the works to the linkspan is awaited.
- Rhoda Meek is organising a meeting to discuss plans for the phone boxes project.
- A marine litter meeting has been organised by Tiree Ranger Service which representatives of TCC will attend.
- There being no other matters arising the minutes of the previous meeting were approved, proposed by **IG** and seconded by **RT**.



## **Argyll & Bute Council Budget**

- A meeting was held approximately 2 weeks ago regarding budget cuts.
- There were plans to completely close the Service Point at Crossapol. TCC submitted a response to this and confirmation has been received that the Service Point will remain open.
- It was noted that closure of the Service Point on Tiree seems to be investigated every year when the Council are looking at budget cuts and this is disappointing.
- The Council Tax increase has been confirmed at the maximum increase as per SG's budget 2019-2020 ie 4.79%

## Tiree Community Council - Minutes of Meeting



### Tiree - Oban Air Service

- Three submissions have been made - to MSP's (John Swinney and Mike Russell) and to councillors. Full details of the submissions are available to view on the website.
- It was noted that there is now a link in place between Oban High School and Tiree High School which uses the service regularly. It is thought that reference to this should be included in the tender.
- TCC hope that there will be reinstatement of some sort for this service. It is thought the earliest this could happen would be June 2019.
- Rhoda Grant MSP has suggested that a submission be made to the petitions committee which is chaired by Johann Lamont. It is possible that representation from Tiree would be called to give evidence.
- It was noted that Mike Russell is working behind the scenes to try and ensure that the service is continued.
- A member of the public commented that the service is of benefit to the Health Board as people can attend hospital appointments and return to Tiree on the same day - this reduces the claims being made for overnight accommodation.
- The consultant's report states that the interested airlines would have preferred that the contract period was reduced from 3 or 4 years to 1 year, to offer better value and reduce exposure to the fuel price increases.
- A member of the public commented that Argyll & Bute Council do not understand island life if they are saying that this isn't a lifeline service. TCC have done all they can on this issue.
- A member of the public asked for clarification as to why this PSO is through the council and not the Scottish Government in the same way as the Glasgow - Tiree PSO.
- It is thought that historically the Scottish Government were not interested in running Oban airport so it was done through the Council.
- A member of the public made reference to an article in a recent issue of the Oban Times. This article highlighted Colonsay and Coll as suffering and there was no reference to Tiree suffering.
- It was agreed to contact the Oban Times to have this clarified. ***JH to action.***



### Ferries

- A member of the public commented that there have been a lot of cancelled sailings recently - a number of which were cancelled a day in advance. They don't always make the correct decision and this is affecting a lot of local businesses - particularly hauliers.
- Catriona MacLennan, MacLennan Motors issued a statement regarding a situation that resulted in the island running out of petrol due to issues with ferries. It was noted that hazardous items (fuel, hay etc) cannot be carried together on the same sailing. An issue arose when Calmac made a mistake with bookings that meant the petrol tanker could not get to Tiree on the Saturday, as had been booked. The next available booking offered by Calmac was the Tuesday. The Tuesday sailing was then cancelled and the island ran out of petrol.
- It was noted that the recent statistics are not available so it is not known whether the number of cancelled sailings has increased.
- It was suggested that it may be worthwhile taking the issue of cancellations to the Calmac Communities Board and discussing with Robert Gibson of Calmac.
- It was noted that other islands seem to be having the same issues - Arran and Lewis.

## Tiree Community Council - Minutes of Meeting

- A member of the public commented that there does not seem to be any consistency in the cancellations.
- A member of the public commented that they are losing faith - some days the ferry is cancelled and the weather is not bad, the next day is wilder and the ferry is sailing and manages to berth successfully.
- It was suggested that TCC work with Tiree's representative (Stewart MacLennan) on the Calmac Communities Board to pull together a presentation.
- A member of the public commented that as we live on an island we should all be realistic about transport links and the weather. We should be aware that sometimes the boat won't get in and there is a possibility there could be a fuel shortage on the island.
- A member of the public commented that it is becoming more difficult to run and sustain a business on Tiree.
- A member of the public commented that due to an error made by Calmac, 160 metres worth of Tiree Music Festival equipment has not been correctly booked onto the Tiree - Oban Monday sailing after the festival and is now on the waiting list.
- It was noted that other islands have Calmac representation at their meetings that Tiree do.
- It was agreed to work with Stewart MacLennan to produce a report on CalMac's reliability for the next TCC meeting with a view to submitting it to the next Calmac Communities Board meeting at the end of April, at which Paul Wheelhouse MSP Minister for Energy Connectivity and the Islands is due to attend Wheelhouse 2h1hc . At which . ***RT to action.***



### Tiree Local Government Representation

- It was suggested that if Tiree work together with other islands - Mull, Jura, Coll, Islay, Colonsay etc to form a shared group. This group would have a stronger representation when lobbying the Government/Council on joint issue.
- A member of the public commented that they did not believe this would work to produce the desired improvements.
- A member of the public commented that if the UK can leave the European Union, then Tiree should be able to leave Argyll & Bute if it wants to.
- A member of the public commented that Mull and Islay are both big islands in comparison with Tiree, they each have several Community Councils. They aren't going to 'need' Tiree's help.
- A member of the public commented that Argyll & Bute should be split in two - all the islands should become a new entity together.
- A member of the public questioned were any of our problems to do with perception? Are we looked at differently as Tiree is privately owned by Argyll Estates?
- It was agreed to write to other Community Council's to gauge interest. ***JH to action.***



### Tiree Community Council Planning Policy

- It was proposed to amend the current policy re local applications as follows:- *If a local application (1) appears, after a submission to TCC by an impacted party, or parties, to have the potential to impact on a significant number of people in Tiree or (2) have the potential to raise important matters of principle for Tiree, TCC will become involved in the decision making process.*
- This change to the policy was agreed.

## Tiree Community Council - Minutes of Meeting

### **Beach Tidy**

- It was noted that Tiree Ranger Service has organised a meeting regarding this which will take place at 7.30 on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Joint Meeting with TCDT**

- It was agreed to arrange a joint meeting with Tiree Community Development Trust. **RT to action.**
- A discussion took place regarding the possibility of taking a delegation of Tiree people and products to Holyrood. The intention would be that this would help to raise the profile of Tiree in the Scottish Government.
- IG is in correspondence with Lesley Evans (Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government) regarding this initial idea.
- It was agreed that this would be on the agenda for this Joint Meeting

- **Telecommunications**

- A member of the public commented that the EE signal on Tiree is Band 20 only, and this is not supported by all phones, even some newer smartphones. Band 20 is only available to pay monthly EE customers, not pay as you go. Networks like Plusnet who piggyback the EE signal do not operate on Band 20.
- A letter has been written to Heather Wolfe (Secr to MR MSP ) to pass on the communities concerns as TCC are unable to contact EE directly, as emails are not delivering to the contact address previously used.
- A member of the public commented that their EE signal is great.

### **AOCB**

- As discussed at the AGM, it was agreed to place an advert in An Tirisdeach seeking interest for Associate Councillors. **JH TO ACTION.**
- A member of the public commented that they are now a Community Leader for the Surfers Against Sewage organisations 'Cold Water Islands' project which has chosen 10 islands in the UK that are aiming to target business's to reduce their use of single use plastics. The project requires support from TCC. It was agreed that this will be discussed at the next meeting.
- A member of the public commented that when they took beach rubbish to the dump they were told that as it is contaminated it cannot be recycled it needs to go to landfill.
- A member of the public commented that the problem of litter is worse than it used to be.
- A member of the public commented that they attended a conference on the mainland recently and saw a lot of Coop bags for life on the fence and has since become aware that the Coop wanted to introduce to use of compostable bags in their store but this has to be approved by the council and Argyll & Bute Council have refused this.

### **DONM**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

***There being no other business the meeting was closed 9.30pm.***