

Tiree Community Council

Date	3 rd April 2019
Time	7.30pm
Venue	An Talla
Present	Councillors Present: John Holliday, Ian Gillies, Alison Clark Trust Staff Present: Louise Reid Public-8

1. Welcome and apologies.

- The Chair welcomed all present, apologies were received from RT

2. Conflict of Interest

- None

3. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

- The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated and discussed.
- It was noted that the defibrillator audit of the island is still ongoing.
- An article has been placed in the Oban Times regarding the threat to the Oban Flight.
- It was agreed to arrange a meeting with TCDT. **JH to action.**
- It was also agreed to send all minutes to Coll Community Council. **RT to action.**
- There being no other matters arising the minutes of the previous meeting were approved, proposed by **IG** and seconded by **JH**.

4. Correspondence

- A letter was received from a member of the public regarding the possibility of Tiree becoming a Fair Trade Community. It was noted that Scotland is a Fair Trade Country. The Community Council agreed to support this in principle, should the project progress.
- A number of letters have been received regarding concerns over Tigh a Rudha, it has been suggested that the building will no longer have a lock on the front door, meaning that able residents could potentially leave the facility. This has raised some concerns in both the medical community and families of residents in Tigh A Rudha, as it may leave some residents in a potentially vulnerable position. It was suggested that removing the locks could be due to a Human Rights matter and suggested that an alternative could be put in place, whereby a notification is sent if a resident leaves the building etc. It was agreed to get some guidance from Argyll and Bute Council on this matter as to why these changes are being implemented, and contact the locality manager for the area to request a meeting on the matter. **JH to action.**
- During a recent trip to Westray, it was identified that they have better equipment for storing remains at low temperature. **JH** has been investigating similar equipment for Tiree.
- A letter has been received from HIAL, a drone exclusion zone has now been implemented over certain parts of the island. More details can be found on the website. **RT to action.**
- It was noted that the BBC are producing a programme on Tiree whereby individuals will be followed for a period of time, to portray what island life is like.

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5. TCC Representation

- It was noted that there are four regular members on the Community Council at present and a very high workload. **JH** has been liaising with Melissa Stuart, the Local Governance Officer for Argyll and Bute Council, only when the Community Council is down to three members can a bi-election be held, meaning TCC is currently not eligible for this option. However given the circumstances Argyll and Bute Council have agreed to continue looking into this.
- It was noted that the Community Council can appoint members for specialist projects. These members would not have a vote in any council matters.
- **JH** proposed that John Patience (**JP**) be elected as a special member to oversee and consult on the Phone Box Project. All present agreed and **JP** was welcomed onto the council.

6. Tiree-Oban Air Service Tender Update

- The deadline for the Tiree - Oban Air Service is 2nd May. It was noted that the tender document is flexible, allowing for the appointed airline to provide as many flights with any type of aircraft they see fit. It has been suggested however that Argyll and Bute Council are not offering enough money in the tender for the service to prove viable. It was noted that the flights had an average 40% occupancy rate over all islands using the Hebridean Air Service.
- **IG** has been liaising with Rhoda Grant (MSP for the Highlands and Islands) and it was suggested that if the tender process proves to be unsuccessful and the service cancelled, a petition can be raised with the petitions committee.
- It was suggested that this will also help raise the profile of the issue.
- There are three factors to consider when thinking or raising a petition, these factors are; the matter must meet the national interest of Scotland, there is currently a back log of petitions, and a petition cannot be raised if it conflicts with the interests of the Local Council, unless it is of the national interest of Scotland.
- It was suggested that the matter of the Tiree - Oban Air Service Tender does meet the above criteria, as although may potential conflict with the interests of Argyll and Bute Council, it does benefit the national interest of Scotland, as the loss of this PSO could have an impact on others.
- It is thought that the timescale for this process could be lengthy.
- A member of the public suggested that the Community Council begin preparatory work, to ensure the petition is ready to go if needed.
- It was agreed to have a draft petition ready to circulate by the next meeting. **IG to action.**

7. Telephone Box Project-Presentation

- **JP** was welcomed to the meeting, and gave a brief update on the phone box project. The main points were as follows:
- **RM** and **JP** have met to discuss the project and ways forward. A survey of the phone boxes has been completed, the survey shows each box in its location and the work required to refurbish each box.
- It is thought that the phone boxes can be repaired on site, the proposal is to appoint a 'champion' from each township, to oversee the refurbishment of the boxes and motivate each team through the process, whilst updating the Community Council. It is suggested that the champions from each township meet on a regular basis to update each other on progress etc.
- The estimated cost for each box is expected to be approximately £1000.

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- Some funding has been secured through private donations, however additional funding is needed before the project can be implemented.
- **The Community Council agreed that this project would be council policy and agreed to support the process. Thanks were given to JP for his work on the project.**
- It was suggested to create a pilot phone box to act as a flagship for the project. It was agreed this was a good idea after funding is secured. It was also noted that risk assessments etc. should be carried out before work begins.
- A member of the public suggested that the Scarinish Phone Box be the pilot Phone Box.

8. Marine Litter

- SC is progressing with the project and a working group has now been established.
- It was noted that it can be challenging to get the litter transported to the dump, the rubbish can be heavy and large, making it difficult for the council workers to collect.
- The initial plan is to divide the island into sectors and tidy a couple of sectors per year. The hope is to work with a crofter in the sector who has access to tractor and trailer to help collect and remove the larger items, the crofter would be paid for use of equipment.
- It was noted that Catriona Spink has also been leading a 'Surfers against Sewage' initiative on the island. There is a lot of momentum behind these cleans and a large area has been cleared. This initiative also allows for litter to be recorded, so that patterns can be attained and a conclusion as to where the rubbish comes from can be made.
- IG noted that 2020 is the Year of Coasts and Waters. There is funding available through event Scotland for related events.

9. Ferry Reliability

- Some Islands have produced ferry reliability reports, which shows the number of successful dockings over a period of time. The report produced by the Mull community suggested that the number of successful dockings have decreased over the years, with no tangible evidence as to why. Investigation suggests that there has been no fluctuation in the weather etc. It was noted that there is a similar trend across the network.
- SML (CalMac Communities Board) noted that the board are continuing to lobby on the matter. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 21st April, whereby representatives of Scottish Government and Transport Scotland will be in attendance. SML will feedback to Tiree Community Council after the meeting.
- A member of the public suggested that the cancelled sailings could be due to an underlying issue, which is not weather related, potentially due to the condition of the boats, crew etc.
- It was also noted that continuity is required for the island communities and businesses to benefit from the service.
- It was agreed to place the Mull report on the website, if it is already in the public domain. **RT to action.**
- Thanks were given to SML and the CalMac Communities board for their continues representation of island communities.

10. Telecommunications

- IG has been in correspondence with EE regarding the status of network on the island .
- It was found that the service is available only to devices with ESN technology. EE are planning to roll this out commercially however due to an access issue, this has been delayed. It was noted that a lot of people are getting the service and are happy with it.
- A member of the public has produced a report on the network and the availability of EE service across the island. It was noted that both EE masts are operational, however some signal is still being provided from the Coll mast. The report suggested that the installation of the masts were not completed correctly, meaning the signal is not as strong in some places as it should be.
- EE also offers Wi-Fi calling and a booster service to its customers.
- EE have suggested that ESN has been made available for such organisations as the Coastguard and other Emergency services, in order for older phones to work, EE must make the mast, available to devices which run on Band 20 and Band 3.
- Thanks were given for the production of this report. It was agreed to continue to investigate this. **IG to action.**

11. Formation of Argyll and Islands Group

- JH has been in touch with other islands, with the suggestion that the islands form a group to discuss similar issues etc. Some responses have been received and feedback has been positive. It was noted that representatives from Islay have yet to get in touch. It was agreed to progress the group. **JH to action.**

12. Utilisation of A&BC Customer Service Point

- It was suggested previously that the administration for WHHA and ACHA be done on the island for on Island properties, previously there was no body on the island to take this over, it was suggested that this could be a way to further utilise the Argyll and Bute Council Customer Service Point on the Island. It was agreed to write to Roddy McCuish on this matter. **RT to action.**

13. AOCB

- A member of the public expressed disappointment with the condition of the public toilets. It was thought that these are not being cleaned on a regular basis by the council. It was agreed to investigate the budget for this and ascertain the reason why the toilets are not being cleaned to a set schedule. **JH to action.**

There being no other business the meeting was closed; the date of the next meeting 8th May