



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

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Minute of Meeting held in Council Chamber,
Council Offices, Stornoway on Wednesday 7
December 2022 at 2.00pm.

PRESENT

Mr Kenneth Macleod (Convener)	Mr John N Macleod
Mr Paul Steele (Leader)	Mr Donald Macsween
Mr Duncan MacInnes, MBE (Depute Leader)	Mr Donald F Crichton
Mr Kenneth John Maclean	Mr John A Maciver
Mr Iain A MacNeil	Mr Calum Maclean
Mr Iain M Macleod	Mr Iain M Macaulay
Ms Susan Thomson	Mr Malcolm K Macdonald
Mr Mustapha Hocine	Mr Gordon Murray
Mr Uisdean Robertson	Mr Rae Mackenzie
Mr Paul Finnegan	Mr Angus McCormack
Mr Grant Fulton	Dr Frances Murray
Mr Robert Mackenzie	Mr George Murray
Mr Angus Morrison	Mr Norrie Macdonald
Mr Ranald Fraser	Mr Finlay M Stewart
Mr Norman Macdonald	

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Malcolm Burr	Mr Tim Langley
Mr Calum Mackenzie	Mr Nigel Scott
Mr Iain Mackinnon	Mr Colin George Morrison
Mr Calum Iain Maciver	Mrs Marina Macaulay
Mr Derek Mackay	

Prayer

The meeting was preceded in prayer, led by Mr Duncan MacInnes MBE.

The Chairman ruled item 2 and the appendix to item 5 as urgent to allow the matters to be considered prior to the next meeting.

Tribute: Cllr Grant Fulton

The Convener, on behalf of the Comhairle, extended sincere condolences to Cllr Grant Fulton, whose father Mr Willie Fulton, had passed away recently.

The Convener, on behalf of the Comhairle, congratulated Cllr Grant Fulton on his recent marriage.

Tribute: Mr Angus Murray

The Convener paid tribute to Mr Angus Murray, formerly Principal Strategy Manager with the Comhairle, who had passed away on 26 October 2022. The Convener stated that Mr Murray had represented the Comhairle as Lead Officer in supporting the work of the Community Planning Partnership's Board and Executive Group and Angus had also worked for the Comhairle's European Services, in External Strategy. The Convener further stated that in each role Mr Murray had brought a significant level of funding into the Outer Hebrides.

The Convener mentioned that the wealth of tributes paid to Mr Murray had been a testament to his skills and character.

The Convener, on behalf of the Comhairle, extended condolences to Mr Murray's family at this very sad time.

Tribute: Mr Neil Beaton
The Convener paid tribute to Mr Neil Beaton, former Councillor for North Uist and Benbecula, who had passed away recently at his home in Knockintorran, North Uist. Mr Beaton had served on the Comhairle from 2012 till 2017 and had been a Vice-Chair of the Environment and Protective Services Committee.

The Convener, on behalf of the Comhairle, extended condolences to Mr Beaton's wife, daughters and extended family at this sad time.

Tribute: Miss Marsali Macaulay
The Convener referred to Miss Marsali Macaulay from Benbecula, who had won two gold and one bronze medal at the Scottish Sport National Championships in Grangemouth recently. The Convener stated that this had been the first time that Miss Macaulay had competed in a junior national swimming championship event and the first time that a swimmer from the Western Isles had competed in the Disability Sports National Championships.

The Convener, on behalf of the Comhairle, congratulated Miss Macaulay on this amazing achievement and wished her all the best for the future.

Tribute: Mr Bill Lawson
The Convener referred to Mr Bill Lawson, who recently celebrated the occasion of his 100th publication and to mark this a Civic Reception had been held in the Council Offices on 6 October 2022.

The Convener, on behalf of the Comhairle, congratulated Mr Lawson on this achievement.

Tribute: Uist Unearthed Archaeology Project – Archadological Achievement Awards
The Convener referred to the Uist Unearthed Project, which had won the Archaeological Innovation Award, the Public Dissemination/Presentation Award and the overall Outstanding Achievement Award at the Archaeological Achievement Awards at Dublin Castle on Tuesday 29 November.

The Convener, on behalf of the Comhairle, congratulated all involved with the Uist Unearthed Project.

Tribute: Ms Sheekha Saha
The Convener referred to Ms Sheekha Saha, Solicitor in the Chief Executive's Department, who had won the In-House Lawyer of the Year Award at the recent Herald Law Awards

The Convener, on behalf of the Comhairle, congratulated Ms Saha, on this Award.

Tribute: Mr Kenny Morrison
The Convener referred to Mr Kenny Morrison, the Comhairle's Harbour Master, who had been selected as Vice-Captain for Team Europe in the Phoenix Cup, which was the world's first fully inclusive team international and was based on the Ryder/Solheim Cup, where disabled golfers from around the world were invited annually to bring together teams to compete and continue to develop and promote the sport for players of any age, with any type of disability.

The Convener, on behalf of the Comhairle, congratulated Mr Morrison on this achievement.

MINUTES

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| Minute of Meeting of 28 September 2022 | 1 | The Minute of Meeting of 28 September 2022 was approved . |
| Minute of Meeting of Social Work and Social Care Board of 2 December 2022 | 2 | The Minute of Meeting of the Social Work and Social Care Board of 2 December 2022 was approved . |
| Declaration of Interest | 3 | There were no declarations of interest. |

QUESTIONS

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| Written Questions to the Convener and Chairmen of Committees | 4 | <p>The following written question was submitted by Cllr Ranald Fraser:</p> <p>Does the Convener share my concerns that we still have had no indication from the Scottish Government relating to the Comhairle's next allocation of Crown estate Monies and does he agree with me that this delay is unacceptable?</p> |
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The Convener responded as follows:

We been advised by Scottish Government that the allocation of Crown Estate funding for 2022/23 has been retained pending the outcome of the Emergency Budget Review (EBR).

Over the three rounds of Crown Estate funding to date, communities across the Outer Hebrides have invested the Crown Estates revenues in a range of excellent projects. My understanding is that many communities have projects ready that they hope can benefit from the next tranche of Crown Estate. As such I hope that the Scottish Government will soon be able to make an announcement to allow these projects to proceed. We will continue to engage with Government and Members will be updated as soon as new information becomes available.

GOVERNANCE

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| Best Value Assurance Report 2022 | 5 | The Chief Executive submitted a Report which presented the Account Commission's Best Value Assurance Report on the Comhairle. The Report stated that throughout the Best Value Assurance Report, the many strengths of the Comhairle and its services were highlighted and it also provided the opportunity to focus on some key areas for improvement. |
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It was agreed:

- (1) to note the Report;**
- (2) to note that Officers would implement the Action Plan and report progress to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee; and**
- (3) that the Chief Executive would invite the Audit Scotland team which drafted the BVAR to meet with the Comhairle.**

APPOINTMENTS

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| Budget Board: Appointment of Members | 6 | With reference to item 24 of the Minute of Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 22 June 2022 the Chief Executive submitted a Report proposing to extend |
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the remit of the Budget Board to include consideration of strategic policy matters, the development of corporate policy and strategy and to act as a political sounding board.

It was agreed:

- (1) to extend the remit of the Budget Board to include consideration of strategic policy matters, the development of corporate policy and strategy and to act as a political sounding board; and**
- (2) to appoint Cllr Donald Crichton and Cllr Gordon Murray to the Budget Board**

Sgoiltean Ùra Investments Limited – Appointment of Directors	Ùra 7	7	With reference to item 14 of the Minute of Meeting of 28 September 2022 the Chief Executive submitted a Report which sought approval for the appointment of Directors to Sgoiltean Ùra Investments Limited. It was agreed to approve the retention of Councillor Angus McCormack and the appointment of Councillor Paul Finnegan and Councillor Duncan MacInnes MBE, as directors of Sgoiltean Ùra Investments Limited.
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NHS Western Isles: Appointment of Members	8	8	The Chief Executive submitted a Report which sought to nominate a Comhairle Member as a non-executive Director on NHS Western Isles, for onward recommendation to Scottish Ministers. It was agreed to nominate Mr Paul Steele as the Comhairle Member (non-executive Director on NHS Western Isles).
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Appointments to External Organisations	to 9	9	With reference to item 12 of the Minute of Meeting of 18 May 2022 the Chief Executive submitted a Report which sought the appointment of Members to Urras nan Tursachan and Urras nan Gearranan. It was agreed to: (1) confirm that Cllr Ranald Fraser and Cllr Norman Misty Macdonald be appointed to Urras nan Tursachan as observers; and (2) appoint Cllr Norman Misty Macdonald as a Nominated Director on Urras nan Gearranan.
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Year of Homecoming Member Officer Working Group	of 10	10	The Chief Executive submitted a Report which sought the establishment of a Year of Homecoming Member Officer Working Group, to support the community's plans for the Year of Homecoming 2023, with a particular focus on the community events being planned to mark the centenary of the departure of the Marloch and the Metagama from the islands in 1923.
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It was agreed to appoint the following members to the Year of Homecoming Member Officer Working Group:

**Mr Kenneth Macleod
Mr Malcolm Macdonald
Mr John A Maciver
Ms Susan Thomson
Mr Iain A MacNeil
Mr George Murray
Mr Angus McCormack**

COMMITTEES

Committee
Decision Reports

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The following Committee Decision Reports were approved:

- (a) Education, Sport and Children's Services Committee – 29 November 2022
- (b) Sustainable Development Committee – 29 November 2022
- (c) Transportation and Infrastructure Committee – 30 November 2022
- (d) Policy and Resources Committee – 30 November 2022
- (e) Audit and Scrutiny Committee – 1 December 2022