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AIRIDHANTUIM COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING – 15th January 2024

PRESENT:

Kenneth N Graham	Alexander Jack (Vice Chair)
Donald A Macdonald (Secretary)	Mairi Macdonald
Shaun Macdonald	Iain Maciver
Roderick J Martin (Chair)	Marina Matheson
James McCartney	Robert Gillies
Matthew Maciver	

COUNCILLORS : Donald Macsween; John N Macleod

APOLOGIES:

Donna Dorris	Cncllr Kenneth Macleod
Iain Murray	Murdo Nicholson
Alice Murray (CNES)	

RESIDENTS: Elenor Macleay Donald J Morrison

OTHERS:

PS Robert Shirkie (Item 3)	PC Gillian Edwards (Item 3)
David Green (Ness CC)	Muriel Macleod (Ness CC)

Item	Details	Action
1. Welcome & Apologies	Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting - particularly members of the public, Police Scotland and two representatives of Ness Community Council	
2. Approval of previous Minutes	Minutes of the meeting held on 2 nd November 2023 were agreed as accurate – proposed by Mairi Macdonald and seconded by Iain Maciver. A copy of these is to be submitted to CnES, to Alice Murray and to UOG.	DMD
3. Police Scotland	<p>PS Robert Shirkie provided us with an update on the financial and staffing challenges faced by Police Scotland nationally and throughout the Western Isles. He also provided some statistics for fixed penalty traffic offences locally in the last 12 months and raised general awareness of issues that must be taken into account when dealing with minors/school pupils.</p> <p>Key takeaways for ACC were around the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To highlight the value of Special Constables and to encourage anyone with an interest in assisting/joining Police Scotland to apply or to contact Robert directly b) The importance of using the 101 telephone number to report issues, incidents and concerns – that being one of the measures used when decisions are being taken about staffing resource by Scot Gov/Police Scotland 	

	<p>Subsequent to the meeting, Robert provided us with an e-mail address which also logs contacts in the way described at b) above - contactus@scotland.police.uk</p> <p>We discussed the merits of flagging up residents' concerns about a lack of resourcing generally – this was felt best addressed via our MSP in the first instance should we wish to do so.</p> <p>All present felt the discussion was worthwhile in terms of raising awareness of the issues and challenges as well as actions residents can take. We will thank Robert's Chief Inspector in writing for supporting his and PC Edwards' attendance with us.</p>	DMD
<p>4. Matters Arising from previous Minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrap issues – continue highlighting means by which scrap can be removed • Upper Shader Kiosk – permission held from BT to use the kiosk as an honesty box • Ness CC – pleased to see attendance by David and Muriel and we will look to work in collaboration with Ness CC moving forward • Northland Power – considered correspondence by/to Chair in his capacity as a resident. A number of questions arose for which clear answers are felt difficult. Best course of action decided was to seek a CC meeting with Neil at UOG and to include all affected CCs if possible. • Training Needs – all felt it may be helpful to ask Shona Hadwen at CnES for a session with planning department towards better understanding their processes • Footpath – Airidhantuim to Borve – JN Macleod to seek advice via CnES; DMD to discuss with UOG. Keep on agenda 	<p>DMD</p> <p>DMD</p> <p>JNML/ DMD</p>
<p>5. Any additional correspondence</p>	<p>Nothing to report that is not covered elsewhere</p>	
<p>6. Financial Report</p>	<p>A detailed Report was provided in advance of the meeting by Donnie Macdonald and shared with the Members.</p> <p>In summary, we hold a bank account with £9,702 of a balance as at 12th January. Of this, £8,981 is earmarked for admin/social/general purposes and the other £721 is earmarked for walkway projects including the Shader River walkway.</p>	
<p>7. Council Items</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair attended a useful meeting in Barvas Hall in November which he stated was quite informative and worthy of regular repeat, perhaps twice yearly • We have conveyed local residents' views on the accessibility of local coaches for those with mobility issues to David Macleod at CnES. • Potential mis-use of Council e-mail footer etc for non-Council business by an employee was highlighted to the CnES Chief Exec and acknowledged by him, confirming the appropriate Line Manager had been notified. • We continue to correspond with the appropriate personnel re road signs, road markings, footpaths, drainage, potholes/ruts etc as required. Expectations are this will be ongoing. • Councillor JN Macleod advised that communication is ongoing between CnES and bus operator regarding recent instance of passengers from our area being left behind in Stornoway due to capacity issues on the bus used. 	

<p>8. Projects Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benches at Borve bridge – fully installed now, thanks to the sub-group involved. DMD to contact WIL with a view to claiming the matched grant fundng they offered previously (before/after photos to be supplied) • Clan MacQuarrie Memorial – still awaiting design draft from Jonathan Smith. DMD has followed up with JS but no response so far in January. To chase up again. 	<p>DMD</p> <p>DMD</p>
<p>9. AOB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ness Community Council will meet every second month (second Tuesday of Jan, March, May, July, Sept, Nov) • Chair is looking to create an info board/plaque for Borve Bridge • Bus Shelter display boards – reaching end of life, felt to be no need for repair/replacement • Ferry Consultation re new contract award – closes 8th March, link already forwarded to all to allow individual responses • Potential old folks’ dinner in September – agreed in principle to support that initiative alongside Clan MacQuarrie committee. Including assisting funding of it, perhaps via WIL, UOG, CLLD. Councillor D Macsween suggested tying into UOG’s Duthchas initiative if possible/helpful • Traffic issues on Shader shore road – to discuss with Lower Shader Grazings Clerk with a view to GC potentially creating croft access on the road which may double as an informal passing place. • Barvas Cemetery Road -DMD to write to Mr A Smith again to highlight concerns raised once again re the road surface. To suggest approaches be made to UOG, CnES, local contractors etc, even temporary repairs would help it was felt. 	<p>DMD</p> <p>DMD</p>
<p>10. Date of Next Meeting</p>	<p>Monday 18th March 2024 at 7.30pm at CMCC, Borve</p>	<p>DMD</p>