



MINUTES

Ness Community Council

Date: 23/01/24 | Online

In Attendance

David Green Muriel MacLeod Cairstiona Macleod Annie MacSween

Alison MacDonald Mary Duff Donna MacIver Cllr Kenny MacLeod

Apologies

Cllr Donald MacSween

Chair: David Green

AGENDA

1. Welcome/apologies for absence
2. Any declarations of interest
3. Minutes of the meeting of 28th November 2023
4. Matters Arising
5. Financial Report
6. Current project plans
7. Update on Logo
8. Publicity/communications – Facebook, email address, fios
9. Proposed meetings with Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn (UOG) and Airidhantuim Community Council (ACC)
10. Butt of Lewis plans (UOG) and role for NCC
11. Statutory consultation role, and information about responses to Northland Power offshore wind project scoping report.
12. AOCB

Point 1. Welcome/ Apologies for Absence

Due to Storm Isha and Storm Jocelyn, meeting online was opted for, and it was noted that Zoom is not supported on Comhairle nan Eilean Siar devices, which impacted on the councillors' ability to participate fully.

Point 2 Declarations of Interest

Muriel MacLeod noted a family connection with Northland Power.

Point 3 Minutes of the Meeting of 28th November 2023

Muriel Macleod approved the minutes

Donna MacIver seconded this.

Point 4 Matters Arising

Lionel School Swimming Pool and spòrsnis

Muriel Macleod shared the island-wide details regarding provision of swimming lessons and waiting list – currently people are waiting to be placed on the waiting list of 50. Donna MacLeod updated on the discussions surrounding the challenge of lifeguards being able to access training as instructors, and raised the issue of Island equity of provision regarding opening hours and lessons. **David Green will contact Simon Amos at spòrsnis for an update.** NCC happy to consider using funds to help pay for training of Instructors, depending on the CnES process in place.

Point 5 Financial Report

Cairstiona Macleod - Treasurer - and Mary Duff – Second Signatory - have chosen to deal with the bank in person, following challenges with the online process. David Green will put into progress the bank receiving correspondence from Shona Hadwin to corroborate that Cairstiona MacLeod and Mary Duff are newly-appointed members of the NCC.

Point 6 Current Project Plans

1. The Christmas Lights

Donna MacLeod has recruited volunteer electricians – Duncan MacRitchie and Kevin MacRae, and others willing to help install the lights when the time comes, free of charge. Donna completed the paperwork which was processed by Muriel MacLeod and the headteacher of Lionel Primary School, sent to Council Services and received prompt approval. The suggestion that the lights could be put in place during the upcoming refurbishment programme was positively welcomed. **Muriel MacLeod and Donna Maciver will investigate costs,** and have already sourced suppliers used by other schools. It was voted that if possible, including the front of the spòrsnis building in the lighting project would be the aim.

2. Toy Library at the Beaches

This initiative was noted as relatively cheap and logistically feasible, and to be discussed further with a possible launch in Spring 2024.

Point 7 Update on Logo.

Muriel MacLeod unveiled the digitized version of the NCC Logo Competition Winning Entry, and everyone agreed it is superb, and expressed thanks to Domhnall Smith for his work on this – the **NCC will formally thank him for this in Fios.**

Point 8 Publicity/ Communications

The NCC Facebook Profile will be linked to an official email address to be set up by Muriel MacLeod, Donna Maciver and Alison MacDonald to facilitate correspondence.

Donna Maciver's address will be the official postal address for the NCC - 36 Cross, Ness.

NCC will provide Fios with regular brief updates, alongside Airidhantuim Community Council.

The new logo will be used across all correspondence.

Point 9 Proposed meetings with local organisations

Muriel MacLeod and David Green reported back from attending the Airidhantuim Community Council Meeting recently, which they found to be excellently run, presenting many ideas for NCC to take forward.

A variety of funding bodies such as Western Isles Lottery funding, Council Grants, Awards for All were recommended.

The Community Talk with police sergeant Robert Shirkie highlighted that supporting drives to recruit Special Constables/ Fire service/ Coastguards could be supported by NCC in future, as could the Ferry Consultation processes.

Setting up further collaboration with local organisations to see how to add value was agreed upon.

Point 10 Butt of Lewis Plans (UOG) & NCC Role

David Green recommended that if possible we go to the UOG centre when possible, and introduce ourselves as the UOG offices have the plans and proposals on display for this project, as well as for the Housing Development Hub in Barvas.

There are plans in place to have a temporary toilet block and a Café Trailer at the Butt of Lewis site as soon as possible.

Keeping in close contact and continuing to be willing to support where possible was noted as our action going forward.

Point 11 Statutory Consultation Role

The preliminary scoping study was shared by David Green, and as planning develops, NCC will be informed. The offer made by Neil MacKinnon to come an talk to NCC would be a great way for us to learn more about the Northland Environmental Scoping and also all Urras projects. **David Green to take action.**

Point 12 AOCB

Transport Issues

The school bus that went off the road on Friday 19th 2024 is of concern, given that accidents had happened there the day before in the bad weather. **Alison MacDonald will check to see if the SMT of the Nicolson Institute are raising a concern.**

The bus route provision is concerning as reports of people being left behind due to not enough seats on the minibus which is assigned to the last run to Ness at 9:40pm, as well as issues of access as some buses do not lower to allow varied mobility passengers access. Investigating how to address this is underway.

The next (Committee) meeting will be on 13th February 2024. Full meeting on 12th March.