



North Uist Community Council

Comhairle Choimhearsnachd Uibhist a Tuath

NUCC Minutes

Meeting held on Monday 27th February 2023 at 7.30pm at Claddach Kirkibost Centre

Present:

Joan Ferguson (JF) Chair

Conor Lawless (CL) Vice Chair

Lynda MacLean (LML) – Secretary

Fiona MacVicar (FMV) -Clerk

Anne MacLennan (ANNEML)

Donald Ewen Morrison (DEM)

Peter MacNab (PMN)

Angus MacLellan (ANGUSML)

Rachel MacLean (RML)

Zara Wilkie (ZW)

Cllr Mustapha Hocine (MH)

Cllr Uisdean Robertson

Public:

Paul Wilkie (PW)

Donald Norman MacDonald (DNM)

Apologies:

Effie Rodger (ER)

Michelle MacDonald (MMD)

Ragnall Maclain (RMI)

Mairi Claire Ellwood (MCE)

John MacDonald (JMD) Treasurer



1. Adoption of Minutes:

PMN adopted the minutes and LML seconded.

2. Matters Arising:

New Clerk – FMV has been appointed as the new clerk. CL nominated FMV and ANGUSML seconded.

MH, UR & ANGUSML unable to use Zoom for meetings. Microsoft Teams seems to work better for internal meetings, and not external. PMN is going to look into accessing a laptop/computer that can be linked up to the screen for Hybrid meetings.

UR to send FMV a Councillor's Report.

UR is to get an update on the water on the road at Blashaval.

3. Treasurers Report:

JMD was not present at the meeting, but JF gave us a summary on his behalf. JMD would like all appointed before going to auditors around the end of March.

JF had previously requested £1000 be transferred to the War Memorial Fund (WMF) as it was running low. WMF total is now £1706.28.

ACTION: UR & MH agreed to contribute £500 each to the WMF.

JF put forward that it might be worth signage at the war memorial with a QR code/maintenance pot for the Community to transfer money to raise funds.

ACTION: JMD is going to contact Peter Holland regarding quotes for stimming, etc.

4. Funding Requests:

Lionacleit School;

Piping Trip – Pipe Band go on the 12th of March.

Local Councillors contributed £300 each.

We all agreed NUCC would contribute £200.

S2 Outward Bound Trip – The School is taking S2 pupils (the year group that missed out on a P7 trip due to Covid) away. There are 20 pupils from North Uist alone.

We all agreed NUCC would contribute £200 to this also.

ACTION: LML to send UR & MH the Funding form in order for them to also make a contribution.

LML to contact the school to request the pupils do something for the Community to raise more funds.

JMD is to write the cheques.



5. Correspondence received:

- Spaceport planning – The layout of the planning document was not very “user friendly”. Councillors were advised to have little to do with the planning. The Community would like to know if there is any community benefit, as we were previously told there would be a Community pot to generate funds, but have not heard anything regarding this since the first initial meeting.

ACTION: MH to contact Calum Iain MacIver/Alison for further information.

- Mowi Cheesebay planning – UR & ANGUSML have attended the meetings with Mowi, partners and the local community. Mowi will be leasing the land from the Council, and North Uist Estate also have an apportionment, but have had little communication with them.
- ANGUSML spoke on behalf of the community, where they feel they have not been consulted as best as they could have been. The community feels frustrated with the little communication regarding the process and also the outcome, which they will welcome.

ACTION: A further meeting is set to take place and ANGUSML will update us at our next meeting.

- Scottish Salmon planning – Grimsay is becoming a shorebase for a site off Benbecula. The local fishermen are not happy, as the pier is already overcrowded. UR believes that the community will object to this plan.

ACTION: JF is to contact MCE to see if anyone within the community has raised concerns.

- UACC Meeting date – (Uist Association of Community Councils) Peter Bird has stood down as the Chair. UACC are trying to arrange a meeting at Stoneybridge Hall, and they are hoping to decide whether it will be face to face or on Teams. UR says he thinks only 2 members need to attend.

ACTION: JF will send a response, and mention anything that could be added to the agenda.

- NUBLPP Meetings – UR is the Chair of this Committee. They are looking for a new Development Worker, as Jemma MacVicar has left, and is yet to be replaced. A part time basis would also be considered, and a full time salary is approximately £24,000/£25,000. It was a 3 year fixed contract, and there is now 2 remaining. This position will be re-advertised in the very near future.
- Website – A pilot scheme for a free website has been sent by an association for Community Councils. CL is willing to lead on this, and train others to assist. JF believes it needs to be well maintained to be successful, and that training for us all would ensure of this. PMN & FMV have agreed to work alongside CL on the website, as it would be best to take the opportunity of the pilot for free website.

ACTION: CL will get in contact to express NUCC’s interest in starting up the website.



6. Defibrillators:

NUCC has purchased 5 of the defibrillators within the Community; Grimsay, Sollas, Lochmaddy, Sgoil Uibhist a Tuath & Hougharry. ANGUSML has enquired about community based First Aid/CPR training with Donald MacAulay. ANGUSML believes that it would be beneficial for us all to go for the training, so we don't have to rely on a defib. Donald is willing to do the training with us all, £520 with a certificate, and £470 without.

ACTION: ANGUSML will keep us updated when he has further correspondence with Donald MacAulay, and a venue can then be arranged.

7. North Uist Flag:

It was agreed by all to put this "on the back burner" for a few months, and look at it again, as nobody was willing to take it forward.

8. North Uist Deer Management:

Donald Norman MacDonald (DNM) attended the meeting on behalf of Newton Estate to discuss this matter. DNM is enquiring about a helicopter to do a deer count for North Uist, which is the sum of £12,000 for a days work. North Uist Estate and Newton Estate Shooting Syndicate, and also NUCC contribution could hopefully pay for this process, but DNM fears that time is not on our side, as it would need to be completed within the next month.

The plan has not yet been sent to NUCC, but DNM will ensure it is shared. There are approximately 200 shot annually. This year alone, Newton Estate have shot 1/3 approx 30, and North Uist Estate approx. 120.

DNM contacted locals regarding a DSE1 qualification which would be a day course, and would allow individuals to shoot the deer themselves.

9. AOCB:

ZW brought in the results from the school regarding the availability of crofts for the younger generation. This is being put on our next agenda to discuss.

Due to running out of time, we did not get through the entire agenda. All will be added on to agenda for our next meeting.

11. Date for next meeting: It was agreed that our next meeting would take place on the 27th of March at 7.30pm at Claddach Kirkibost Centre.

