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AIRIDHANTUIM COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING – 18th March 2024

- PRESENT:**
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| Kenneth N Graham | Alexander Jack (Vice Chair) |
| Donald A Macdonald (Secretary) | Mairi Macdonald |
| Iain Murray | Iain Maciver |
| Roderick J Martin (Chair) | Robert Gillies |
| Murdo Nicholson | Matthew Maciver |
- COUNCILLORS :** Kenneth Macleod; John N Macleod
- APOLOGIES:**
- | | |
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| Donna Dorris | Shaun Macdonald |
| James McCartney | Marina Matheson |
- RESIDENTS:**
- | | |
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| Elenor Macleay | Kim Bartram |
| Elaine Fothergill | Richard Inger |
- OTHERS:** Alice Murray (CNES)

Item	Details	Action
1. Welcome & Apologies	Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting - particularly members of the public and Alice Murray of CnES, who is our local Community Learning & Development officer.	
2. Approval of previous Minutes	Minutes of the meeting held on 15 th January 2024 were agreed as accurate – proposed by Roddy Martin and seconded by Mairi Macdonald. A copy of these approved Minutes is to be submitted to CnES (Shona Hadwen). Alice Murray and UOG are to be provided with a draft of the March meeting Minutes in due course.	DMD
3. Community Learning & Development	<p>Alice Murray provided a brief update about her role at CnES – approx. 2 days per week working as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme team, the remainder her community role covering Uig to Ness and her involvement with the P7-Secondary transition team.</p> <p>Alice also mentioned that the Crown Estate funding will be launched around end April (confirmed by Councillors too). Groups need to be ready with projects in a quick timeframe – turnaround between launch, closing date and award announcements expected to be fairly tight. Criteria may be different this year, as might the assessment process be.</p> <p>In addition, Alice advised that Council Leader Paul Steele intends to conduct ward visits throughout the year.</p>	
4. Matters Arising from previous Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Council training/awareness sessions (Feb/March 2024) – these were run by CnES and included a presentation from the team at the Planning Dept. Attended by JM, DD, DMD, MN and IM. A brief update was 	

	<p>provided by DMD of the messaging from the online training session he attended, and he will check if the slides from the presentation are available to share with all. Comfort was taken that ACC appears to be attending to the administration and operation of the CC in the appropriate, laid-down manner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Northland Power – RM and DMD provided a timeline etc update following a briefing they had on the matter from Neil at UOG on 12th Feb. At that stage, expectations within UOG were that a further public consultation by the developers would take place locally around May 2024 and again in Autumn 2024. It appears that planning applications will be submitted to Scot Gov around H1 2025, with the process likely to last around 12 months. The “objection window” opens around the same time, with any grounds for objection likely to require to be backed up by appropriate research (there may be funding available to conduct independent research on possible impacts). At this stage, the details remain somewhat unclear re landfill, port facilities, interconnector, viability of the Northland scheme, community benefit etc. It was agreed that ACC would maintain dialogue with other groups locally in order to try and keep residents informed as best we can. E.g. with UOG, Ness CC, Shawbost and potentially other CCs too.</p> <p>Footpath – Airidhantuim to Borve – Agreed that we would continue to explore this – with UOG and CnES re land ownership, with HITRANS re potential funding, contractors re potential costings, UOG and others re possible funding.</p> <p>Over-60s Dinner – it had been agreed by e-mail, after the last meeting, that ACC would contribute £1,000 to the costs of a dinner planned by Clan MacQuarrie Community Centre for qualifying residents of the ACC area on 28th Sept 2024. This decision was approved formally and unanimously, and our Treasurer will now be asked to allocate the £1,000 to CMCC, to be paid out after the event on receipt of a suitable formal request.</p> <p>Shader Shore Road Layby – a possible resolution has been identified via a croft access road to one of the crofts on that stretch of road, which may double up as a layby/passing place. This access requires to be constructed to CnES standards (including concrete or bitumen where it joins the public road and subject to formal planning permission). Some grant assistance may be available to the individual crofter (who is supportive) or to the village grazings committee. The Lower Shader Grazings Clerk is looking into this currently and is also assisting with seeking prices, liaising with CnES and exploring grant options. ACC may be requested to assist with any funding shortfall, but no final decisions will be taken until we establish exactly what is involved for ACC. We hope to provide a further update at the next meeting.</p> <p>Barvas Cemetery Road – wrote to the Cemetery committee chair following the last meeting and response received advising that repair work to the road was to take place in the near future</p> <p>Info Board for Old Borve Bridge – Chair is still working on that and will update further at the next meeting.</p> 	<p>DMD</p> <p>RM/DMD</p> <p>DMD</p> <p>Treasurer</p> <p>DMD</p> <p>RM</p>
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<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. In summary, we hold a bank account with £10,662 of a balance as at 15th March. Of this, £9,601 is earmarked for admin/social/general purposes and the other £1,061 is earmarked for the Shader River walkway project (£721) and the Borve Bridge Seating area/info board (£340).</p>	
<p>7. Council Items</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a suggestion that the waste skip at Lower Shader may be removed and it was agreed that we would write to CnES to object to this • A proposal by CnES to increase abattoir costs to crofters/producers has been objected to by Councillors, including our representatives. No action required from ACC at this time – highlighted for awareness only. 	<p>DMD</p>
<p>8. Projects Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clan MacQuarrie Memorial – Secretary had just received three design draft options from Jonathan Smith on the morning of the meeting. These were shown on-screen, and a decision was taken to further explore the costs of “option 3” (dry stone walling, kissing gate, rock/steel sculpture and info board), including with Caledonia Investments, owners of the Clan Line. The meeting was reminded that planning permission as well as funding would be necessary to enable this project to come to fruition. 	<p>DMD</p>
<p>9. AOB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential for an extension to the Shader River walkway was highlighted by MMD. It was agreed to add this to our “projects” list and to discuss further at a future meeting. Costs, permissions, and funding among the aspects to be considered. • The ditches in High Borve (village street) highlighted as needing attention, and Councillors agreed to highlight this within CnES. • The state of our local roads highlighted by EM and all agreed that these require attention. Potholes can be reported direct to the Council – we have been advised previously that these are often repaired fairly promptly when reported. • Speeding traffic highlighted once again – agreed that residents should report registration numbers to the police, for action to be taken. 	<p>DMD</p> <p>Councillors</p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p>
<p>10. AGM Date</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed as Tues 28th May at 7.30pm at CMCC, Borve • Council to be formally notified • AGM to be suitably advertised 	<p>DMD</p>
<p>11. Date of Next Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 28th May 2024 at CMCC, Borve, immediately after the AGM • To be suitably advertised 	<p>DMD</p>