



MINUTES

Comhairle Coimhearsnachd Nis/Ness Community Council

Date: 28/05/24

In Attendance

David Green Muriel MacLeod Cairstiona Macleod Annie MacSween

Alison MacDonald Mary Duff Donna MacIver Cllr Donald MacSween

By invitation, Jemma MacVicar, Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn.

Apologies

Chair: David Green

Cllr Kenneth MacLeod

Point 1. Welcome/Apologies for Absence

All seven members present and Councillor Donald MacSween. Apologies from Councillor Kenneth MacLeod.

Point 2. Minutes of the Meeting of 12th March 2024

The minutes of the meeting of 12th March were approved.

Point 3. Matters Arising

Update 1. to the Minutes: David Green stated that the Freedom of Information response was initially not released, cited as due to the Cyber Attack, which is noted by the NCC as a shameful response due to the dates being inconsistent. The information requested was then released re: Provision of Janitorial service in Western isles schools. This showed that Lional is not the only school without a janitor. Cllr. MacSween passed on that he had been told the Service Level Agreement is imminent; Spornis would be the employer and it would be a system of itinerant not dedicated staff for maintenance. Concerns regarding prioritizing of needs were raised, and NCC will monitor progress of the level of service once a system is in place.

Update 2. to the Minutes: Jemma MacVicar of Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn confirmed that at the Butt of Lewis site there are now compost toilets and two cleaners have been appointed. The request for Tenders for the pitch for selling refreshments resulted in interest, but no submissions, so this process will continue into next year.

Update 3. to the Minutes: David Green has sourced the Ness Hall Committee documents since the last NCC meeting, outlining the procedure by which the assets of the Murdo Macaulay Memorial Hall Trust could be realized for the benefit of the community. It was decided that documents, including the paper summarising the current situation and the advice from OSCR relating to the Ness Hall position, will be made available to the public upon request.

Point 4 Report on decisions made regarding funding applications

Decisions to distribute funds were confirmed: Lifeguard Training to be supported – one local participant to undertake the training; the Ness Over 40's Football Tour will receive £200 for provision of equipment – Muriel Macleod updated that the purchase of a portable defibrillator is planned, which was noted as an excellent use of funds.

Point 5 Request for Funds for North Lewis War Memorials

Two refurbishment projects are underway estimated at a cost of £40,000, and £20,000 has been successfully committed. The Grazing Committees and other local CC have indicated a small contribution will be made by them. Ness Community Council agreed to giving £200 to this request for funds.

Point 6 Finance Report

The Treasurer, Cairstiona Macleod, presented the NCC current financial statement, showing £3458.20. It was noted that the system of the Challenge Fund has been removed and that funds will be distributed under a new system, meaning that the annual income for each CC should rise from £1,000 to £1,500.

Point 7 Ness Hall

This item was dealt with under Item 3 on the agenda, Matters Arising.

Point 8 Elderly Care

Discussion on issues raised in recent correspondence and presentation from UOG on Upper Barvas Extra Care project. Jemma MacVicar presented detailed material outlining the continuum of planning phases in place for the proposed Barvas Hub. The range of potential housing options proposed and the aims of providing care for the elderly and respite care were noted as highly encouraging and welcomed. The NCC are now in a position to convey this positive project to our community, in response to local concerns raised in correspondence to CCN/NCC.

Point 9 AOCB

The Neighbourhood Eco Project Fund was discussed, highlighting that there are grants of up to £13500 to secure safe passage for species and related initiatives. The invasive plant species issue that is dealt with by Urras was identified as highly positive. It was noted that the rise in the rabbit population recently may be a concern.

The issue of car scrappage was raised previously, and the update states that the Maclaughlin Skip Hire service is still active, and a poster for this will be shared on CNN social media to advertise the free scheme.

The portrait of King Charles III has arrived safely, and Mary Duff will receive this for display in Taigh Dhonnchaidh.

It was agreed that sourcing of banners and stickers with the CCN/NCC logo would be undertaken, with a view to publicity at events such as the Ness Gala. It was also agreed that we should have a presence at the Ness Gala.

Actions Agreed

Agenda Point	Action	Responsibility	By
4	Pay over-40s team £200 when purchase information received	Treasurer	On receipt of information
5	Write to War Memorials Committee confirming offer of £200.	Chairperson	14 th June 2024
8	Post information on the elderly care discussion to the CCN/NCC Facebook page	Vice Chairperson	14 th June 2024
9a	Advertise car scrappage scheme on Facebook page	Vice Chairperson	ongoing
9b	Source stickers and banners	Chairperson	End June 2024
9c	Book a table for Ness Gala	Chairperson	End June 2024