

# North Uist Community Council

## Comhairle Choimhearsnachd Uibhist a Tuath



NUCC Minutes

Meeting held on Monday 29th May 2023 at 7pm at Claddach Kirkibost Centre

### **Present:**

Joan Ferguson (JF) Chair

John MacDonald (JMD) Treasurer

Fiona MacVicar (FMV) Secretary

Lynda MacLean (LML)

Angus MacLennan (ANGUSML)

Peter MacNab (PMN)

### **Public:**

Ada Campbell (AC)

Charles Fraser (CF)

Lachie MacLean (LACHIEML)

Robert Howie Smith (RHS)

### **Apologies:**

Conor Lawless (CL) Vice Chair

Effie Rodger (ER)

Raghnaill Maclain (RMI)

David Downham (DD)

Rachel MacLean (RML)

Zara Wilkie (ZW)

Mairi Claire Ellwood (MCE)

Anne MacLellan (ANNEML)

Donald Ewen Morrison (DEM)

Cllr Uisdean Robertson (UR)

### **1. Adoption of minutes:**

JF adopted the minutes and LML seconded them.

### **2. Matters Arising:**

**Ferries** – A meeting was held with Kevin Stewart the Transport Minister last week.

**ACTION: Email Chris Wilcock as soon as possible to discuss consulting us on the timetable.**

‘Little Minch Group’ in Lochmaddy Hall on the 3rd of July. ASK Chris Wilcock about this.

**Deer Management – ACTION: Ask Andy Dick if we can circulate the deer management plan and see about arranging a community meeting on deer and eagles.**

**ACTION: Add JMD to the deer marauding group.**

**Tracks** – The Track Maintenance Fund was awarded to Middlequarter. JMD is awaiting confirmation on where to send the cheque.

**ACTION: FMV TO EMAIL CL to chase up.**

**First Aid Training** – ANGUSML has not yet had a response from Donald MacAulay. £500 was approved the Social Fund to go towards the training

We need to find out where all the defibrilators are located.

FMV and PMN selected to do checks on the Locheport defibrilator.

**ACTION: ANGUSML will speak to Ann and Sharon.**

**Baleshare Causeway** – It is the Comhairles responsibility to maintain the causeway. UR is going to Westminster at the beginning of July and the causeway is one the projects to be raised. UR will update. The focus group are still waiting on a report on the causeway.

***It was decided to wait until our next meeting to discuss this further.***

### **3. Sea Eagle Management Scheme:**

FMV printed out copies of applications and put link on our NUCC facebook page. Sea eagles are becoming more of a problem, and it will continue to get worse. There is no definite answer for how many breeding pairs there are. Their range is now extending and contrary to reports they are taking healthy lambs.

**ACTION: Put up a post to offer support to those who may be interested in applying, and we can register those who have had problems.**

**Get in touch with Nature Scot to see if they would come to a meeting.**

### **4. Langass Woodland Trust (i) & CKC Update (ii)**

- (i) – There are 5 members on the board, and it is a charity, which has it's own complications. 6 Volunteers help out a lot. Some board members are wanting to step down, or are no longer on the island, so are looking for others to come forward. North Uist Estate are regularly shooting in the area. They should be informing the Trust if they

are shooting. AC brought this to Christine, but did not seem to receive much comfort. Other areas use red flags at each entrance to alert community that they are shooting.

**ACTION: AC will email this information to NUCC and FMV will circulate to all other members, to see if there is any interest, as several members are needed. RHS expressed interest.**

- (ii) There are 3 remaining board members and have struggled to recruit any new members. It is time to find a new future for the building. There has been many big changes to the building. The building is still owned by the council, and only leased by UU, however UU own all the contents and the wind turbine. UU has come to an end in a sense, but would like the building to remain and start something new, along with protecting Hebridean Kitchen. The cafe has not been able to open due to staffing, the nursery moved to the school, and has since become council run. The building has possibilities, and the turbine can be fixed. JF brought up that the cafe being closed up is a big loss, as many people are stopping at the building to see the cafe shut. AC also said that they were not eligible for the Toilet Fund, as Carnish Hall was already receiving it.

**ACTION: FMV will circulate this information to all other members, and see about ideas/interest in the building.**

**ACTION: JF going to check if Carnish Hall is open for toilet access.**

#### **5. Litter Bins:**

It has been an ongoing problem, in particular, the two at Clachan War Memorial & Sollas Coop and some in Lochmaddy. We should start taking pictures to show proof. They are uplifted every two weeks, but could be more frequent, as they are passing them, especially with more footfall at this time of year with tourism. It was discussed that there would be more recycling bins, but they have not appeared. Some wonderful members of the community take it upon themselves to lift the rubbish. JF has been made aware that some with holiday homes also use the road side bins, because their own bins are already full. We don't feel that people would heed signs about over filling the bins, so more frequent uplifts are possible the only option.

**ACTION: JF to email Mairead tomorrow to discuss bin collections.**

#### **6. Scottish Government Consultation:**

11th July is the closing date for this.

A discussion was had about people's own personal experience with holiday/second/empty homes. It would have been an advantage to have discussed this further if the councillors were here. Housing and property is a big problem here.

A site was designated in Knocintorran for new houses, a survey was sent out and there was a consultation, but they then chose to not take it any further.

**ACTION: Email Katie Walker at HHP to find out the outcome of the survey, as there was interest in houses on that site.**

#### **7. Dog Fowling:**

Sollas and Lochmaddy folk have asked why we cannot use little bins at lamp posts. Jemma MacVicar previously looked in to this, but there was an issue with them all being uplifted, who empties them.

This is also an issue at Langass Woodland. Dog waste bags left beside bins, in stamp boxes, hung on fences. It could be an option to use signage to say where bins are to dispose of them. The bins are too hidden at the pier.

**ACTION: JF will get in touch about some dog fouling signs in Lochmaddy.**

Waste disposal areas in Lochmaddy need to be kept clear at all times. JMD notified us that the tap has been removed completely. The taps have been cut, and nobody can get water. The construction site seems to be hiding all of this and there is no signage. PMN tells us that it is a compliance thing, in case of contamination. The workers were also known to be continuously running the tap, and the ferry also uses a lot of water.

**ACTION: PMN will email the workers about running the taps.**

**ACTION: Email Kenny Morrison – the harbour master about the bins.**

## **8. AOCB:**

**Rabbits at Kilmuir** Cemetary – (LACHIEML) Rabbits are making a mess at Kilmuir Cemetary and Clachan Sands. Some graves have been dug up and bones have been detected. It has been a very trying topic for years. A programme of gassing would be help. The Comhairle should maintain the graveyards. JF urges everyone to take photos if anything found and email them to NUCC. JF will copy PMN in to correspondence.

It might be worth asking to meet them again at the graveyard.

Iain Campbell is Stornoway is the person responsible for graveyards. Alasdair MacEachan is also involved.

**NUCC Members** – Going forward, we may need more advanced notice for meetings, or do we look at maybe failure to attend 3 consecutive meetings, it may be best to stand down.

**ACTION: Email the members.**

**NUCC Funds** – It was agreed to give £500 to the Uist Lucky2Bhere group for the maintenance and upkeep of AEDs.

It was also agreed at previous meetings that a total of £3000 would be transferred to the War Memorial Fund.

£1000 from our Social Fund, £1000 from our Challenge Fund which was awarded for War Memorial improvements, and £500 from each from Cllr Robertson & Hocine.

Funds will support maintenance and upkeep of the War Memorial.

The track fund will now sit at £0.

## **9. Pot holes & Council spending:**

This will be carried on to the next meeting when the Councillors are present.

**The next meeting will be confirmed at a later date. Email office bearers first, and confirm a date, that will tie in with ER to put her item on the agenda.**

