



Vice Chair  
**Sandy Jack**  
 41 Borve  
 Isle of Lewis  
 01851 850446

Chairperson  
**Roderick Martin**  
 8 Melbost, Borve  
 Isle of Lewis  
 01851 850445

Clerk  
**Donald A Macdonald**  
 27 Borve  
 Isle of Lewis  
 01851 850751

E-mail:  
[airidhantuimcc@gmail.com](mailto:airidhantuimcc@gmail.com)

## AIRIDHANTUIM COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING – 27<sup>th</sup> August 2024

- PRESENT:**
- |                                |                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Kenneth N Graham               | Alexander Jack (Vice Chair) |
| Donald A Macdonald (Secretary) | Mairi Macdonald (Treasurer) |
| Matthew Maciver                | Donna Dorris                |
| Roderick J Martin (Chair)      | James McCartney             |
| Murdo Nicholson                | Shaun Macdonald             |
- COUNCILLORS:**
- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Donald Macsween | John N Macleod |
|-----------------|----------------|
- APOLOGIES:**
- |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Iain Maciver; Robert Gillies | Marina Matheson; Iain Murray |
| Alice Murray; Shona Hadwen   | Councillor Kenneth Macleod   |
- RESIDENTS:**
- |                                     |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Donald J Morrison; Elenor Macleay   | Calum Macdonald; David Macleay   |
| Agnes Rennie; Sophie Carter-Clavell | Ivo Rijnj; Laura van Wijngaarden |
- OTHERS:**
- Jemma MacVicar (UOG)

Item	Details	Action
<b>1. Welcome &amp; Apologies</b>	Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting – apologies noted as above	
<b>2. Approval of previous Minutes</b>	Minutes of the meeting held on 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 were agreed as accurate – proposed by Donna Dorris and seconded by Roddy Martin. 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 August meeting Minutes in due course.	<b>DMD</b>
<b>3. Matters Arising from previous Minutes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Footpath – Airidhantuum to Borve</b> – remains “live” with previous comms to UOG and CnES re land ownership, with HITRANS re potential funding, contractors re estimated costings. Awaiting CnES spec for paths prior to getting cost estimates.</li> <li>• <b>Over-60s Dinner</b> – now organised for Sat 9<sup>th</sup> November, by Clan MacQuarrie committee. Chef and menu are in hand, invitations will be issued during September. Potential numbers are established, expectation is that approx 130 residents might attend (potential is around 160). No actions required from ACC at this point, save for allocating the £1,000 contribution previously agreed. Noted that UOG are also supporting this event, as are Clan MacQuarrie volunteers of course.</li> <li>• <b>Shader Shore Road Layby</b> – not much by way of developments - a possible resolution had 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</li> </ul>	<b>DMD &amp; Hon Treasurer</b>

	<p>(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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Info Board for Old Borve Bridge</b> – Chair has, since the previous meeting, carried out a significant degree of research on costings and info board content etc. He shared this with attendees along with some further historical background. All in attendance were supportive of this project and it was proposed and agreed that it could be one where an approach for financial support could be made to the UOG Community Investment Fund alongside, perhaps, a scaled down version of the Clan MacQuarrie shore memorial (see point 10 below).</li> <li>• <b>Lower Shader Waste Skip</b> – it was noted that Councillor Macsween had discussed this with I N Campbell at CnES. We had also, just before the meeting, had a formal response from Mr Campbell to the effect that no changes to the existing skip service would be implemented by CnES in this financial year. The general view is that we should still resist strongly any future skip removal.</li> <li>• <b>Ditching</b> – noted that ditches in Bailegearr Borve are in real need of cleaning (causing blockage to croft drains and rising water on croft ground); similar in Borve side streets towards the river and also Ballantrushal village street. Clerk to write to Murdo Macritchie at CnES to get these areas listed for action.</li> <li>• <b>Deer and Geese</b> – UOG had already responded to our email following the last meeting – our email had highlighted the deer and geese concerns throughout the ACC area. We were pleased that Jemma from UOG was present to reinforce the messaging that UOG and partners such as shooting syndicates, Carloway Estate, goose shooters, and Nature Scot are collaborating well to alleviate the problems. Deer numbers culled had doubled last year (60+) from the year before (30+) but the intention is to scale up again to over 100 this year. The problems and challenges are significant however, and more remains to be done. There is a hope that deer and geese culled could be allowed to enter the local food chain, should processing conditions become favourable (eg local abattoir; Storas Uist processing facilities; transportation of carcasses etc) It was noted that the deer shooting season has just started and lasts until February – albeit some out of season permissions held too. Goose shooting can happen all year round.</li> </ul>	<p><b>DMD</b></p> <p><b>RM/DMD</b></p> <p><b>Noting</b></p> <p><b>DMD</b></p> <p><b>Noting</b></p>
<p><b>4. Any additional correspondence</b></p>	<p>Nothing of note that is not already on the Agenda</p>	
<p><b>5. Northland Power/Sporad na Mara</b></p>	<p>All noted the recent Northland presentation to ACC members and residents (13<sup>th</sup> August), also the recent announcement on community benefit should the project go ahead. Finally, it was highlighted that a public exhibition is planned for Clan MacQuarrie Community Centre on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September from 3-8pm.</p>	

	<p>Noted too that, whereas the community benefit announcement is generally welcomed, it does not commit any group or individual to acceptance of the overall project.</p> <p>ACC expects to continue to be consulted by Northland in the months and years ahead and we will continue to encourage involvement from, and engagement by, all residents.</p>	<b>All for noting</b>
<b>6. Speed Limits/Speeding Traffic</b>	<p>A petition from Galson residents was presented to the Councillors present. This petition was in support of ACC's campaign for a speed limit through Galson. This against the backdrop of a number of serious accidents in recent years, including recently. The petition presented, and its background reasoning, is to be highlighted in the local press – including in Fios, Gazette, WLS/Events.</p> <p>The petition will be scanned and forwarded to Calum Mackenzie at CnES for an official response and will also be forwarded to CI Jane Mackenzie at Stornoway Police Station in a separate but related e-mail, also seeking enforcement support from that direction. Positioning/rotation of speed warning signs throughout the ACC area to be requested from CnES too.</p>	<p><b>DMD</b></p> <p><b>DMD</b></p> <p><b>DMD</b></p>
<b>7. Crown Estate Funding</b>	<p>It was noted that the ACC Chair and Secretary, alongside reps from Ness CC and Shawbost CC plus some community group representatives from the Ness area had met with local Councillors recently. This was at the instigation of Ness CC and was a result of some dissatisfaction expressed by groups in Ness about the recent announcements of CEF awards. This sense of dissatisfaction, in summary, was caused by some confusion and mixed messages regarding the type of funding that could be applied for, the process to be followed, the lack of feedback received by unsuccessful applicants etc. This year's process was felt to be flawed, particularly in the perceived lack of formality around decision-making and lack of input opportunity by the Ness &amp; Westside Forum membership. It was noted that the process should be improved for all going forward and that the local Forum will meet more regularly in future, with the CEF and process expected to be regularly on its agenda.</p>	<b>Noting</b>
<b>8. Financial Report</b>	<p>A detailed Report was provided in advance of the meeting by Donnie Macdonald (Hon Treasurer) and shared with the members and also with all present at the meeting. On this occasion, the Report consisted of the audited year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, which had been signed off as a clean audit by CnES, plus the current year figures to 27<sup>th</sup> Aug 2024. All noted and approved. Donnie's ongoing support acknowledged.</p> <p>Bank account stands at £9,624.16 on 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2024.</p> <p>This year's social/admin grant from CnES should be received shortly.</p>	<b>Noting</b>
<b>9. Councillor Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Public Toilet provision in Stornoway</b> – noted that this was raised at the previous meeting. It appears that the situation remains challenging with the toilets remaining closed (mainly due to vandalism issues). Clerk to write to Calum Mackenzie at CnES to highlight the concerns expressed at ACC regarding the ongoing lack of availability of these facilities</li> <li>• <b>Abattoir availability</b> – it was noted that bookings are not currently being taken for December, due to cost challenges and a lack of throughput. The abattoir may close for</li> </ul>	<b>DMD</b>

	<p>slaughtering of animals by end November, earlier than had been the case previously. Also noted was that any significant reduction in the service was a concern for livestock producers and the general public, on animal welfare and public health grounds (e.g. if “home kills” become more commonplace again).</p>	<b>Noting</b>
<b>10. Projects Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Clan MacQuarrie Memorial</b> – we did not secure any Crown Estate Fund monies recently applied for. It was noted that this makes the viability of the project as it stands doubtful (costs are going to be approx. £15k at least). The grand scale of what was recently planned could also be perceived as out of place in terms of the location and its infrastructure (vehicular access, lack of dry paths etc). It was agreed that a scaled down memorial might be more suitable and may offer the best chance of delivering the project – perhaps an interpretation panel on a suitable large stone/rock marking the site. It was suggested that this project might form the basis of an application to the UOG Community Investment Fund once costings were identified (alongside the Borve Bridge Info Panel project referred to in point 3 above).</li> <li>• <b>Shader River walkway extension</b> Costs, permissions and funding remain to be considered. Jemma mentioned that UOG may be able to support the project and that they should be kept apprised of progress regarding the above. Agreed to keep on agenda.</li> </ul>	<p><b>DMD/RM</b></p> <p><b>Noting</b></p> <p><b>DMD</b></p>
<b>11. AOB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slip road at Borve kiosk – BT to be requested to keep the road clear or to construct an off-road parking area</li> <li>• Local Development Plan – Chair and Secretary met with UOG and Ness CC Chair recently to discuss this CnES initiative, which relates to use of land/ planning considerations of same etc. UOG are to draft a plan for the Estate area and will consult widely in due course. Deadline for submission of the LDP to CnES is well into 2025</li> <li>• Scrap vehicle disposal – noted that Stornoway Skip Hire are advertising their free uplift services once more and we will help highlight their availability via Facebook and Fios</li> <li>• Dog fouling – serious issues noted on roadside pavements through High Borve. This has already been reported to CnES and they say they will erect signs to try and deter offenders. Noted that dog mess not bagged and disposed of is an offence subject to a fixed penalty notice, provided there is evidence of the offence taking place. We will highlight concerns raised within our community and the associated health hazards – again, using Fios and Facebook plus village Whatsapp groups</li> <li>• Laundrette facilities – Chair has researched the possibility and viability of trying to obtain such a service locally – however the costs appear prohibitive currently</li> <li>• Airidhantuim School – some suggestions that this property has been sold and we await developments with interest.</li> <li>• Lack of passing places on Galson Cemetery track and on High Borve shore access road highlighted</li> <li>• Barvas Cemetery Road – view expressed that improvements to the road surface are reasonably imminent, Cemetery Committee currently trying to secure the necessary funding</li> </ul>	<p><b>DMD</b></p> <p><b>Noting</b></p> <p><b>DMD</b></p> <p><b>DMD</b></p> <p><b>Noting</b></p> <p><b>Noting</b></p> <p><b>Noting</b></p> <p><b>Noting</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gunnera – guidance is to report via INNS App or via UOG for action. Recent video from UOG on social media provides further guidance on how to treat gunnera.</li> <li>• River crossings/pedestrian bridges at Borve/High Borve and Upper Shader/Ballantrushal mentioned as needing attention – deemed to be matters for Grazings Committees to consider, members to raise within own townships</li> </ul>	<p><b>Noting</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p>
<p><b>12. Date of Next Meeting</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed as Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm at CMCC, Borve</li> <li>• Council to be notified, incl Agenda provided - 7 days in advance</li> <li>• Meeting to be suitably advertised nearer time – 14 days notice</li> </ul>	<p><b>DMD</b></p>