

Castlebay & Vatersay Community Council

Meeting of 4th September 2024 - Draft Minutes

CCC members Present:

Paul McGuire (PMG) – Chair

Katie Denehy (KD) - Vice Chair

Sarah Ann MacLean (SAML) – Treasurer

Eileen Frater (EF) – Committee

Donald MacNeil (DMN) – Committee

Rose MacDougal (RMD) – Committee

In Attendance:

Cllr Kenneth MacLean (Cllr KML)

Summary of Actions at the end

- 1)** Welcome – PMG Welcomed everyone to the meeting
- 2)** Apologies – Cllr Iain MacNeil
- 3)** Minutes of previous meetings require some changes and will be amended and adopted via email
- 4) Matters arising/continuing from last meeting:**

a) Playpark, Streetlights & Roads

Road markings: Line machine due to be back later on in 2024. CnES have made a commitment to resurface 75% of the roads in Barra & Vatersay in 2025.

Streetlights: As of 4th September 2024, streetlights will be go off half an hour earlier from 10.30pm to 10pm. Progress been made for lampposts being fixed half way along the road leading towards St Brendans hospital.

Action 1 (from last minute): Cllr IMN to look into age of street lights

Football pitch/drains: KD stated an email has been received by Calum MacKenzie to say that it has been noted the letter sent by the Young islanders Group re the blocked culverts and flooding issue on Castlebay pitch. It was stated in the letter that Colin McIver would be overseeing any works agreed within that area and to get in touch with him. Seeping sewage and ditches smelling still an issue around ditches near the co-op.

Action 2 (from last minute): Cllr IMN to speak with SEPA regarding drains

Action 3: KD to follow up re ditches and blocked culverts in and around Castlebay pitch.

b) Hub Update

Castlebay School: No Update

Hospital/Care Facility: MP Alasdair Allan has written in regards to St Benda's and has sent response back to CC. This has been sent onto Locality planning group.

Health/Social care;

Cllr KML stated Dentistry post has been advertised but there is currently still a vacancy.

Cllr KML has requested a FOI regarding mental health plan and still awaiting.

Patient Travel – Patient Transport meeting took place in Uist re Consultants not coming down to Uist and the challenges of getting seats on the plane to attend hospital appointments at Western Isles hospital in Stornoway. It was agreed the further south you live the worse it is for any patients requiring to attend appointments in Uist or Stornoway due to public transport not linking up. It was agreed to refer all concerns to Locality Planning group.

- c) Castle* – SAM met with John Fountain on 17/06/24 re Cube. She stated the cube was in situ in Barra for a total of 3.5 days this summer which was highly disappointing. SA has asked can it come back as would be a great interactive experience for all members of the community who didn't get the opportunity to visit it in the such short space of time.

Re Caste – the high level masonry team are due here on Barra between 3rd September – 4th October. Helicopter due to deliver materials on 10th Septemebr 2024. Engineer happy to meet with reps of the CC and Sarah Ann will update.

- d) *Transport Committee:* TC committee continues to meet once a month and it has been agreed to have 3 working groups. This will help give focus to the 3 main areas which are discussed. A shared onedrive has been set up for the TC as well as a fb page. The 3 groups set up are 1. Air service 2. Ferries and 3. Infrastruce group.
- e) *EE Signal* - No update apart from there is now public wi-fi at Vatersday hall

Action 4 (from last minute) ; IM to follow up about requesting a mast to be put up at Vatersay Hall

Other Items for the Agenda

- 5) Spagn fund has been distributed to 10 community groups and this fund has now been spent. 2 committee members from the CC reviewed all applications with the guidance of Foundation Scotland. Moving forward, any future Sapagn funds will be administered by new local area forum co-ordinator Helen Mackinnon.
- 6) Bus Shelter – Crown Estate funds for a bus shelter for Vatersay have been approved.
Action; PMG to ask Cllr IMN to order bus stop if posisble.
- 7) Ball court Upgrade; Barra & Vatersay Junior Sports were offered 2nd hand Astro turf for free which the club agreed to and also beared the transport costs of £6000 to get the Turf delivered to the island. A huge amount of fundraising went into trying to cover the transport costs and Junior Sports club was very appreciative of all the community support for this. However, the council have not agreed for the used turf to be laid in the exisitng ballcourt - despite many meetings and negioations. An independent ASTRO company have since then offered that they would lay new turf at no cost to the community. Further negioations have taken place with the council in regards to this and CnES have agreed to a lease being drawn up but have outlined certain stipulations in regards to the laying of the turf adding certain burdens for the land. Junior sports club is not set up to take on a lease like this and an approach has beem made to the community council whether as a constituted group – we would consider taking on the lease. It was agreed as a community council we would consider taking on the lease and to look into insurance cover for this.
Action; KD agreed to disucss with community council Insurance company the requirments for taking on a lease for this area in regards to public liability and cover.

Finances: SAML updated on finances as follows:

£30,529.38 is the account total, of which most is ring-fenced as follows:

- £11k Grass cutting grant,
- £8,700 Bus Stop,
- £1,500 Playpark.
- £1,400 Pensioners party

All the above amounts are restricted so when these amounts are allocated, the balance will drop drastically.

- f) Date of Next Meeting: **Wednesday 6th November 7pm @ Barra Learning centre**

Summary of Actions:

No	Description	Who	Completed ✓
1	Cllr IMN to look into age of street lights	Cllr IMN	
2	Cllr IMN to speak with SEPA regarding drains	Cllr IMN	
3	KD to follow up re ditches and blocked culverts in and around Castlebay pitch.	KD	
4	IM to follow up about requesting a mast to be put up at Vatersay Hall	Cllr IMN	
5	KD agreed to discuss with community council Insurance company the requirements for taking on a lease	KD	
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Abbreviations:

C&VCC – Castlebay & Vatersay Community Council
CnES – Coimhairle nan Eilean Siar
CBaB – Coimhearsnachd Bharraigh & Bhatarsaigh
VABV – Voluntary Action Barra & Vatersay
LAF – Local Area Forum
MB – Malcolm Burr
LPG – Locality Planning Group
IJB – Integrated Joint Board
AA – Alastair Allan

DRAFT