



Eriskay Community Council

ERISKAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

28th May 2024

Present

Triona Mackinnon, Ron Mackinnon, Craig Harrower, Kat Beedie, Robert Murdoch, Morag Campbell, Angus MacDonald, Paul Steele (councillor)

Apologies

Anne Mannix, Iain MacLeod (Councillor) Susan Thomson (Councillor)

Minutes of Previous AGM

There were no minutes available from the previous AGM

Chairperson's Report

Due to a whole new Committee being formed I am unable to do a full report for the year however I will detail all that has been done since the new committee formed.

On the 23th of January a meeting was held in Eriskay hall to form a new committee for the community council and roles were agreed and approved on behalf of The Comhairle by Allan J MacDonald the Proper Officer.

Roles: Triona MacKinnon – Chairperson, Angus MacDonald - ViceChair, Katrina Beedie – Secretary, Craig Harrower – Treasurer, Marion Campbell – Member, Robert Murdoch – Member, Ron MacKinnon – Member, Anne Mannix – Member, Pat Cross – Member, Michael Cross – Member



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Marion Duff _ Member ? Unable to confirm if Marion wants to be a member she has not been to any meeting when an email was sent it bounced back.

1. It was decided the first thing to do was change the bank account and to make everything future proof for the committee in the future. I would like to Thank Katrina and Craig for all there hard work sorting through all the paperwork and future proofing everything to make it eaiser for the committee in the future. Kat has made various contacts with the council to find out all information on CC duties and what payments are due. Craig has sorted all the accounts.

2. A new bank account was set up with Virgin Money, money was transferred from the old account then it was closed. Other money matters will be in the Treasurer report.

3. It was decided to move the bus to a more central location of the Hall and a Keylock was put in place to keep the van keys in. Although the bus is safe for this year we need to look at alternatives as its likely that founding will keep getting cut.

4. Margaret Justice has stepped down as a volunteer for the bus we thank her for all the time she has put in and wish her luck for the future. We advertised for more volunteers and two have come forward which will be a help.

5. We organised a community Litter pick on the 25rd of March which was very successful. A thank you goes out to Eriskay Hall for providing juice and crisps for the children that came along and helped.

6. We also cleaned up the bonfire area which has left a large area burnt on the Machair with grass no longer growing there. We purchased a magnetic roller to pick up all the nails left, so far we have filled six bags full of nails and still there is more to pick up. It was agreed to go over the site a few more times with the roller and then to lay seaweed on the ground to encourage new growth. We will need to come up with



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solutions for the bonfire site, Prince charlies beach parking on both sides of the beach, to discourage parking on the Machair to help maintain it for the future.

These areas have suffered greatly due to visitors parking on the grass. The Machair is well known as Europes rarest Habitats it has a high biodiversity value and includes scarce species.

I have looked into getting various signs but for the moment we have settled on Machair PLACE signs from Visit OuterHebrides. The island has had quite a lot of visitors coming over the past few years and keeps increasing every year especially the amount of campervans. This has lead to a lot questions being asked about parking and overnight parking. We need to have a community consultation about parking. What does the community want?

7. I have been in contact with the council about moving the bottle bank just waiting to hear back if it's possible so we can free up some space at the hall car park.

Secretary's Report

The main correspondence received has been regarding Calmac ferries, the new Benbecula to Stornoway plane and patient travel, and re-initiating the Community Council Association group.

Treasurer's Report

Craig talked through the accounts for the year ending March 2024. He confirmed that the starting balance was £6,166.34 and the closing balance was £3,018.84.

Election of Office Bearers

Chairperson - Triona, proposed by Robert, seconded by Paul

Vice Chair - Angus, proposed by Robert, seconded by Paul



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Secretary - Kat, proposed by Robert, seconded by Paul

Treasurer- Craig, proposed by Robert, seconded by Paul

AOB

Community Bus

We had a longer discussion about the future of the bus, as the view is that although we have managed to get some funding back this year, the likelihood is that the funding will only decrease over the coming years. Paul confirmed that there would be new funding from next year and we might have to apply for it. Kat confirmed that she has emailed Jim Morrison to discuss options and funding including using a taxi, a different lease hire. Paul noted to give him a shout if we do not hear back from Jim.

Issues with Campervans, bins and parking

It was noted that a bigger discussion would need to be had about some key issues impacting Eriskay, including campervans, parking and bins. The view is that a community consultation should take place in the future about how we want to deal with incoming traffic and where/if people should be able to park, whether for the day or overnight. Paul advised that we should identify potential land to use and noted that the Ferry terminal is council land and we could approach them with any proposals. Paul also noted that there might be land available at Cnoc Lachlainn. He said that as it was clear that Hebridean housing is not going to use the land, it could go back to the community to make parking spaces.

Bottle bank

The bottle bank has moved to the Ferry terminal. Triona will send a post out to inform the community and confirm that there will be options for those without cars, to take bottles on the community bus.

Community Council Association



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Paul confirmed that they are trying to set up the Association again. He also noted that there are wider forums that we could join but we could also set up an Eriskay forum too. Kat asked Paul to send on any information to the email address, so we could understand what it all meant and then could decide what we wanted to do as a group.

First Responders group

We discussed the donation we are giving to the group of £150. As part of this it was suggested that there be a session at one of the council meetings to talk about what the group does and give the community more information. Ron also confirmed that there would be more training in August.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is planned for on 27th August at 6.30pm.