

## Lochboisdale Community Council

Southend Community Hall

Monday 29/01/24 at 7.30pm

Present at meeting; Paul Steele, Kathryn Martin, Angus MacDonald, Beth Lindsay, Sarah MacKay, Sian Swinton, Annie MacDonald, Peter Steele

Apologies: Kathleen Lindsay, Max Swinton, Lorna Steele

3) Minutes from previous meeting – approved by Peter and seconded by Sian.

4) Matters arising from minutes – will be discussed as per agenda

5) **Public transport issues** – There will be a meeting in Sgoil Dhalabroig to discuss the school bus service. The school parent council will be in attendance.

Kathryn sent an email to Calmac regarding the disruption to the ferry service. Angus also sent an email to Fiona Galbraith with regards to the timetables and changes that were imposed. The Hebridean Isles has currently been sitting at Lochboisdale pier for 12 days.

Kathryn sent an email to Loganair to highlight the issue of no flights to Benbecula on Christmas eve. There has been no reply to acknowledge the email. Beth will try to get another email address from her contacts in Glasgow for Kathryn. Paul informed the committee that Loganair did send him email to say that there would not be a plane on Christmas eve as they do not have regular flights to Benbecula on Sundays. Kathryn will send a further email to Loganair.

If emails are being sent regarding transport issues please remember to include councillor Uisdean Robertson.

6) **Patient Travel** – Paul has been part of a recent meeting with a view to creating a focus group to help move patient travel forward. This would be to help streamline the arranging of patient travel and will reduce spending. Kathryn will send a letter to Debbie Goskirk in the health board.

7) **Loganair** - discussed in section 5

8) **Cal Mac/ Ferries** – as discussed in section 5

## 9) Councillor updates -

### Budgets

CNES are still to find £2.7million in the next 2 weeks. It is extremely difficult to balance the books and by using the reserves, CNES have found £7million in the £9million shortfall. There have been no compulsory redundancies but if posts become vacant they may not be advertised.

### Inter island flights

The 2 day service costs more than the previous 3 day timetabled service by £200,000.

Residents in Barra who are travelling to Stornoway have 2 overnight visits in Uist for a potential 15/30minute appointment in the Western Isles hospital. Discussions have been had at senior level to push for medical scopes to be completed in Ospadail Uibhist agus Bharraigh (OUAB). The costs involved to be sending patients to Stornoway are incredible when a solution could be found by training staff in Uist to assist with this procedure. Aside from the financial implications it is very stressful to the patients to be travelling and having to be away from home for days. Although there is a policy in place to be reimbursed for travel expenses it does not cover the costs fully or reflect the current hotel/b and b prices throughout the islands.

### Ward visits

Paul has visited most wards in the Western Isles with just Uist to be completed. There will be an invitation to attend the South Uist and Eriskay Forum in due course.

### Street lighting

The street lights are scheduled to go from 6.30/6.45am but some remain on until 4am. There have been reports of street lights being out and not being fixed in a timely manner. ACE electricals in Stornoway were awarded the contract to maintain the street lights but the local council workers were seen working on them today (29/1/24). Paul suggests inviting Angus MacDonald to the next meeting to raise our concerns.

Daliburgh school is lit all night long but this is due to security and CCTV purposes and this will remain in place.

### Public transport/ service issues

Buses can leave 10minutes before the plane is due in. No connecting transport link except by taxi.

Issues have arisen on the 8am/9am buses as drivers say this is specifically for school children only but it is advertised on the timetable. Bus drivers leaving earlier than timetabled is also causing issues.

The bus contracts are for 7 years.

### Road repairs

CNES have calculated £68million in road repairs. Due to the current financial climate it is unlikely that there will be improvements complete in the near future.

It was highlighted that the current road repairs team are lacking in their health and safety procedures due to lack of hi-vis clothing, no road signage to alert drivers and better planning is required.

### Speed limits

Contact Ross MacClenaghan (Acting Sergeant) to discuss reducing speed limits through Daliburgh (Leonards Place/ to Daliburgh machair).

### EE Mast

EE will be installing a mast near Loch Smalag and creating a path to it. They will be accessing the foot of Ben Kenneth by crossing the bridge at Lasgair and will repair the track to gain access.

### Housing Strategy Survey

Information is being collated and may be agreed next week to be discussed at the Sustainable meeting in February.

### Lochboisdale Pier development

The cost of the new pier works have increased from £22million to £57million. Transport Scotland will pay 60% of the costs and CMAL will need to pay the remaining 40%. There has been no progress made until revenue is secured to move this project forward.

### Use of Daliburgh School pitch

It is an FES facility and if looking to book the use of the pitch you must give a weeks notice. If using the pitch in the summer holidays 6 weeks notice must be given.

Southend Football Club are planning to purchase a 3g cover for the pitch with the view of taking over the running of the pitch and changing rooms.

### Tigh Innse Gall (TIG)

There are 6 houses which are planned to be built at Rubha Bhuilt, which has gained a lot of interest. Open days were held last year for locals to see the plans and to make enquiries of interest to Donna Young.

The cost for HHP to build a 2 bedroom house is approximately £250,000. It was suggested to invite Katie Walker to the meeting in March- Kathryn will follow this up.

## 10) **AOCB**

Date of next meeting 26th Feb 2024 at 7.30pm.