

Uig Community Council

Draft Minute of Meeting

TITLE : Uig Community Council

DATE : 3rd February 2025 TIME : 7.30pm

VENUE : Uig Community Centre

DISTRIBUTION : To all Council Members

Present: Norman (Norrie) Mackay (Chair), , Janet MacNaughton, Calum-George Buchanan, Jamie Dobson, , Julia Shaw (via Zoom), Cllr. Norman (Misty) Macdonald

Attending: Sophie Brown (Clerk), Amanda Humble

Item		Summary and Action	Who?	When?
1	Apologies	Cllr. Ranald Fraser, Peter Macdonald, Kevin Agg, Caroline Bishop, Alice Murray (CNES)		
2	Approval of Minutes	<p>The minutes of the December meeting were approved.</p> <p>Updates from the last minute:</p> <p>School Playground – Calum George noted that the Council wont fund improvements to the playground. However, some areas are waterlogged, and it was noted as an area for improvement when the school was last inspected.</p> <p>Improvements to the playground could be anything from £7,000-£10,000. Ward money has been put towards improvements and so far the School PC has c. £2,500 towards this.</p>		

		<p>Concerns were raised around safety. Calum George to ask the school to provide rough plans and costings.</p> <p>Sophie to circulate school improvement report.</p> <p>Email was sent to Bård N. Hjelman, CEO, Norwegian Mountain Salmon (NMS) asking for a regular update on the proposed fish farm and inviting someone to attend a future UCC meeting.</p> <p>Mr Hjelman phoned Sophie with the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Following the surveys last year Uig is the favoured location, however, as a site it is higher risk than they had first expected. - NMS had applied to Marine Scotland for 2024 or funding to undertake investigation of the surrounding environment (in particular the seabed and the water currents) but were unsuccessful. - NMS will apply to Marine Scotland for funding again in 2025 and they are also looking to obtain analysis permits. - NMS are also in touch with John Cunningham at CNES and Innes Morrison, Reasort Estates. <p>Email sent to Torcuil Crichton, MP, re BT/EE and access to community benefit funds from renewables.</p> <p>[following the meeting it was confirmed that Mr Crichton will attend the UCC meeting on the 7th April]</p> <p>A drop-in session to update the community on the changes to internet and telephone provision was organised by Jame Dobson and held on Thursday, 30th January. Approximately 25 people attended and completed the forms. The main concern is around losing the landlines and what happens in an emergency situation. This is a serious issue – especially for houses that don't get mobile phone signal (eg Miavaig). One attendee was a former project manager with BT and noted the mismatch between shut down of ADSL system and refurbishment of the exchange. It was agreed that we need a local agreement to postpone the shutdown of the ADSL system until the conversion to a digital exchange.</p> <p>Uig CC to send a letter to BT. Jamie Dobson to draft.</p> <p>Total cost of consultation was £18 – paid to Jamie Dobson</p>	<p>CGB</p> <p>SB</p> <p>JD</p>	<p>(done)</p>
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		<p>It was also noted that when internet is down pager system to fire service and coastguard doesn't work and volunteers need to be called via landlines.</p> <p>Following the recent appointment of Aquatera Ltd to lead the community benefit consultation for Spiorad na Mara a meeting has been scheduled for the 4th February in Breasclete Hall. There is the potential for Carloway Trust to set up a company to manage the fund. Jamie Dobson to attend on behalf of UCC</p>	JD	
Item		Summary and Action	Who?	When?
3	Finance	<p>No outstanding invoices</p> <p>£7,165.19 in the current account and £5,77.34 n the savings account (£4,000 ringfenced for Mealista memorial)</p> <p>Julia Shaw updated that she had received an email from CNES Community Transport (Jim Morrison) for the community bus runs by Peter Maclellann (to the shop and the surgery). They pay UCC who then pay Peter. Jim Morrison noted that we need more details to support their budget and funding bid. The email to be forwarded to Norrie to pick up on this. The 2024/25 budget was supported by Crown Estate.</p> <p>The UCC will receive £600 from the Community Challenge Fund. This can either be allocated to a specific project or put into general funds.</p>	JS/SB	
4	Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New defib sign ordered and has been delivered to Breanish. - The Mallinson's will put this up and send through photos. - Iain Irvine will arrange First Aid training at the community centre. 		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Western Isles Road Safety National Speed Management review is on Tuesday 11 February (3pm to 7pm) at Stornoway Town Hall. - John Norgrove would like to ask the Uig Community Council if it possible for a representative from the CNES planning department to come to a future meeting to explain the situation regarding planning permission for the Carnish quarry. Norrie and Misty to ask for planning information from CNES - Local Place Plan training delivered by Scottish Community Councils (emailed information to all members). I have signed up to the introduction session on the 12th February. - Planning applications to be forwarded on to members of UCC 	<p>NM / NMM</p> <p>SB</p>	
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5	Councillors' Update	<p>Cllr Macdonald noted that CNES have to find £2m in next years' budget. At the moment they have said that there will be no compulsory redundancies. Education and social work are ringfenced.</p> <p>Janet MacNaughton asked whether it possible to see end of year accounts on the CnES website. Sophie to circulate.</p> <p>The Director of Finance, CNES, is Norma Macdonald (Ness).</p>	SB	(done)
Item		Summary and Action	Who?	When?
6	Ardroil Machair Road	An email from Chris Macritichie, Ardroil Grazings Clerk, asking for financial support to repair the Ardroil Machair Road. At the meeting it was noted that there are no funds for unadopted roads from either CnES or UCC. Ardroil Grazings received just over £10,000 from the Crown Estate about three years ago to fill potholes, however, this hasn't solved the longer-term issues. To tar the whole road would be c. £100,000, although it is potentially cheaper to use concrete rather than tar. It would be good to fully understand the costs– what type of road, costs of repairs		

		<p>Cllr Macdonald noted that it is unlikely that CNES will adopt new roads given current budget constraints. This is also Catch 22 as the road has to be to a certain standard before the council will adopt it.</p> <p>Other grants are available (eg SSEN), however Ardrol Grazings committee will have to lead on this. Alice Murray could support as CnES Development Officer.</p> <p>Sophie to respond to Christopher Macritchie and also pass on Alice Murray's contact details. Alison Tyler spoke to Simon Scott and has said that she can also advise.</p>	SB	
7	Update on Noticeboard and Mealista Memorial	No further update		
8	AOCB	<p>Amanda Humble noted that there may be the potential for a land-based aquaculture project in Uig. Ed Tane – Seabait Ltd registered at Companies House has a start-up company growing a polycerids, krill type of animal, to feed king prawns. However, this requires 5-20 Hectares of land and a 30m water depth (assume powered by solar panels). Issue may be that he would be looking for land ownership.</p> <p>Christmas lunch – it was agreed that UCC should contact UCCA about opening this up to wider community. Potentially charge for under 60s – free for over 60s.</p>	SB	
	Date and Time of Next Meeting	Date of next meeting: 3 rd March 2024 @ 7.30pm in Green Room, Uig Community Centre		