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Clerk
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AIRIDHANTUIM COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING – Tuesday 25th March 2025

PRESENT:

Roderick J Martin (Chair), Alexander Jack (Vice Chair), Marina Matheson, Kenneth N Graham, Iain Maciver, Robert Gillies, Iain Murray, James McCartney, Shaun Macdonald, Murdo Nicolson, Sophie Carter-Clavell (in the role of Clerk only)

APOLOGIES:

Kenneth Macleod (Cllr), D Macsween (Cllr), John N Macleod (Cllr), Mairi Macdonald (Treasurer), Donna Dorris, Donald A Macdonald, Mathew Maciver, Alice Murray (CnES)

RESIDENTS:

Donald J Morrison, Ivo Rijnja, Laura van Wijngaarden

Item	Details	Action
1. Welcome & Apologies	Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting – apologies noted as above.	Chair
2. Approval of previous Minutes	Minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2025 were agreed as accurate – proposed by Alexander Jack and seconded by Iain Murray. A copy of these approved Minutes are to be submitted to CnES (Shona Hadwe) in due course.	Clerk
3. Matters Arising from previous Minutes	Kiosk Road Borge No further comments were brought forward at this time.	Noting
	Steinacleit Road Correspondence received from Historic Environment Scotland in response to the ACC Chairperson's letter advised the project proposal was unlikely to meet their (HES) grant priorities for funding, they recommended contacting the local council to pursue a resolution. Clerk to provide the update from HES to the homeowners on Steinacleit Road via email.	Noting
	Dog Fouling No further issues were raised at this time.	Noting
	Speed Limits There was no correspondence to share on this agenda point and no further comments added by residents or members.	Noting
	Ditching Correspondence received from Technical Services (CnES) was shared with members and residents advising there are no other flooding issues that they are aware of at present and they have completed the ditching works in the Borge area at the moment. Technical Services (CnES) further advised there are no plans for them to return to Borge at the moment as they are working through other areas of flooding in Lewis and Harris. However, should there be a safety concern they did advise they would be happy to inspect this.	Noting

3. Matters Arising from previous Minutes, cont.	<p>Sea View, High Borge</p> <p>An image of the property was shown, with a further description of the front wall collapsing into the ditch. Concerns were raised about the safety aspect of the derelict state of the property, especially the risk of potential flying debris in high winds. Councillors have been contacted via email in regards to this matter, Clerk will provide them with the latest feedback and ask for advice on how to proceed.</p>	RM/ Clerk
4. Northland Power	<p>The Query Response Sheet previously received from Spiorad na Mara was shown and the Clerk will also circulate this via email. RM provided an update on the Aquatera meeting attended, and the presentation slideshow received was shown to members and residents. The information regarding Community Benefits consultation being underway and the closing date of 11th April was also shown. Topic to be retained on Agenda as a standing item.</p>	Noting
5. Emergency Planning & Community Response Meeting	<p>Chair and DMD attended the meeting with UOG and David Green, NCC on the 20th January 2025 to discuss how the project will be taken forward. DG had noted actions to be taken following the meeting and is progressing the project with NCC; it was noted the update of the Ness Village WhatsApp groups in collaboration with UOG is now currently underway.</p>	RM/ DMD
6. Proposed Formal Change to ACC area boundary - taking in North Galson	<p>Correspondence update received from Shona Hadwen (CnES) provided confirming that they will look to proceed with the consultation in the next few weeks and they will keep ACC informed of this and of the outcome.</p>	Noting
7. Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn - Housing Needs and Demand Assessment	<p>Chair provided an update on the UOG Housing Needs and Demand Assessment meeting attended about community needs for housing and the test survey participated in. Optimism was expressed about the project's potential to bring in more affordable housing.</p>	RM
8. ACC Secretary/Clerk position	<p>Sophie Carter-Clavell notified Chair and Vice Chair in advance and advised members they are stepping down as Secretary with effect from 15th May 2025. It was noted the Secretary / Clerk position is open and to be filled. CnES to be advised of the resignation of SCC and updated with the new Secretary details in due course.</p>	Clerk
9. Financial Report	<p>A detailed Report was provided in advance of the meeting by Donnie Macdonald (Hon Treasurer), this was shared with the members and also with all present at the meeting. Bank account stands at £9173.36 currently, but with several ongoing projects that should use up the surplus funds.</p>	Noting
10. Project Updates	<p>Footpath – Airidhantuim to Borge (DMD/SMD)</p> <p>An update was provided with correspondence received from UOG about the potential project and funding opportunities. Concerns over cost were raised by attendees if the project is to be taken forward. Item to be kept on the agenda and to continue to look for potential funding / grant opportunities.</p> <p>Info Board for Old Borge Bridge (DMD/RM)</p> <p>Following concerns about the Info Board fading issues raised at the last meeting, Chair advised he had spoken with the Info Board manufacturer and they have confirmed all their signs and panels are made with polycarbonate which doesn't fade with the sun. The Info Board wording has been finished since the last meeting and image of the final draft was shown.</p> <p>Clan MacQuarrie Memorial (DMD/RM)</p> <p>A photograph of the finished memorial with Community Council members was shown to those in attendance. Project was confirmed to be completed and no further action required.</p>	<p>RM/ DMD</p> <p>RM/DMD</p> <p>Noting</p>

10. Project Updates, cont.	<p>Shader River walkway extension Costs (MM/MMD) No correspondence received. This was suggested as a potential project for Coastal Community funding - plans to be progressed (by subgroup).</p> <p>Shader Shore Road Layby/croft access (DMD/MMI) DMD corresponded with CnES and they confirmed the road was adopted. It was advised that ACC have asked if CnES could support the proposal with a financial commitment of a third with the other two thirds of the costs being equally divided between ACC and Lower Shader Grazings Committee. An update from CnES was shared to advise that the road/layby drawing provided was undersized and will need to be redrawn / resized accordingly, and to budget for VAT in pricing the project. Next steps; once the drawings have been resized, quotes to be sourced.</p> <p>High Borge Shore Road - Passing Place Correspondence from CnES confirmed the road is unadopted; a map of the road was shown to members and residents in attendance. Next steps; to obtain quotes as per policy.</p>	<p>MM/MMD</p> <p>DMD/MMI</p> <p>DMD</p>
11. AOB	<p>Coastal Community Revenue Funding (previously Crown Estate) It was noted the funding was to be split equally between the two forums. The Shader River walkway was put forward as a potential project for this funding - plans to be progressed (by subgroup) - with the funding application deadline noted as 2nd May 2025.</p> <p>Playing Field, High Borge - Potential Project Suggestion made for a potential ACC project with positive impacts for young families would be to upgrade the Playing Field in High Borge with new equipment. It was noted families need to travel a long way to utilise play areas in neighbouring villages and there is a lack of things to do in the ACC area for younger members of the community. Item to be kept on the agenda for further discussion.</p>	<p>RM/DMD MM/MMD</p> <p>SM/Noting</p>
12. Date of Next Meeting and AGM 2025; to be confirmed	<p>Agreed as Tuesday 27th May 2025 at 7.30pm at CMCC, Borge. Council to be notified, including Agenda provided to them 7 days in advance. Meeting to be suitably advertised on social media nearer time – 14 days beforehand and repeated in lead-in to the meeting date.</p>	<p>Noting</p> <p>Clerk</p>