

## **BREASCLETE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**Minutes 9<sup>th</sup> July 2025, 7.30 pm, Breasclate Community Centre**

**Present:** Mairi Blackhall, Jacqueline Ferguson, Chrissie Macarthur, Fraser Macdonald, Cllr Misty Macdonald, Angus Mackenzie, Kenny MacLennan, Jenny Morrison, Christina Murray, Angus Smith, David Stevenson.

**In attendance:** Denise Horan, Kathleen Milne (Northland Power)

**Apologies:** Cllr Ranald Fraser, Noreen Macdonald, Malcolm Mackay, Alice Murray, John Smith.

The Chairman welcomed Denise and Kathleen to the meeting, where they presented the refined proposals for the N4 project, incorporating feedback from recent public meetings. This was followed by an extensive Q&A session (see Appendix). The discussion also covered employment opportunities, education and training, and the strain on local services, particularly health and social care. It is important for potential employers to be aware of other vacancies as part of their recruitment process.

**Minutes of Previous meeting :** Approved – Angus Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fraser Macdonald.

**Minutes of AGM: Approved** – Fraser Macdonald, 2<sup>nd</sup> Angus Smith.

### **Matters arising:**

Repairs: Bus Shelters on schedule

Cycle/footpath – still to be swept.

30mph signs – not erected yet.

Traffic: Concerns regarding parking on both sides of the main road through Callanish, particularly at the weekend. Clerk to report to CnES.

CVC: Work progressing, delivery of windows delayed. Financial support given to a resident to empty portaloo sited on their croft.

UTC: Camping pods are doing well.

Local Place Plan: the forum meeting had been cancelled.

Crown Estate: will be paid in the next couple of weeks. In future, there will be a fixed date for payment.

### **Correspondence:**

Email from Shawbost CC inviting all island CCs to a meeting in August to discuss N4. Members were unable to attend on the date – Clerk to decline.

Further discussion on Community Council involvement and the recently circulated responses from Highland Community Councils. Members expressed that they would be unable to make any comments until the project goes to planning and they can see the final proposals.

**Ferry Access:** notice received that tenders were out for the supply of a new gangway.

**School:** Concerns have been raised that the Comhairle is not adequately considering the demand for English-medium education in Breasclete, and children are being automatically given a place at Shawbost or Lochs. The clerk will contact the Parent Council for an update.

**AOB:** A report received by a member regarding a loose dog. Person to be advised to contact police.

**Date of next meeting:** Next meeting will be Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September, after the August break.

N4 Q&A.

Q. Reason for reducing the number of turbines.

A. Visual Impact reduction. Geo-physical work has not yet been completed so may be able to reduce further later on.

Q. When will the Sub-station options be decided?

A. After consent.

Q. When will the project go to planning?

A. Estimated late Autumn

Q. Re access road for cable. What is the depth of peat?

A. Variable, but average depth not known. Probing has been done and more to be done. Deeper areas will need wider access, and there will potentially be a floating road at some points.

Q. On the potential for young people, capabilities of local people, work with UHI.

A. Working with UHI and schools. Stem co-ordinators are working in schools and UHI, and scholarships in Gaelic and Stem are being awarded. There are numerous strands and ongoing collaboration with other organisations.

Q. Will Community Benefit be index-linked?

A. Yes

Q. Interconnector connection

A. Scottish Government has approved this. The converter station has been consented.

Q. Progress on other sites.

A. Limited dealings with other companies, but are different types of projects at various stages.