

# **Castlebay & Vatersay Community Council**

## ***Meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025- Draft Minutes***

### **CCC members Present:**

Paul McGuire - Chair

Katie Denehy (KD) - Vice Chair

Sarah Ann MacLean (SAML) – Treasurer

Eileen Frater (EF) – Committee

Donald MacNeil (DMN) - Committee

### **In Attendance:**

Cllr Kenneth MacLean (Cllr KML)

Cllr Ian MacNeil, (Cllr IMN)

Rachael Saunders (RS minutes)

MP Torcuil Crichron

Mel Groundsell

### **Summary of Actions at the end**

- 1)** Welcome – PMG welcomed everyone to the meeting which started at 19.00
- 2)** Apologies – Rose MacDougall
- 3)** Minutes of previous meetings proposed by Donald MacNeil and Seconded by Katie Denehy
- 4) Matters arising/continuing from last meeting:**

#### ***a) Playpark, Streetlights & Roads***

**Road markings:** CNES due to resurface more roads in May 2025. Approx. 70% of the Island will be done over a 3 week period. KM confirmed that the Renewal fund of £20million has been allocated, £15million of which is to be used in Uist and Barra, with some allocated to Uist road infrastructure.

**Streetlights:** As of 4<sup>th</sup> September the streetlights now go off at 10pm; there have been complaints about this. It's been highlighted that it can also be a struggle in mornings as the streetlights don't turn on in time for travelling to the ferry; this is likely because of Barra having the only service with such an early departure so was not taken into consideration. KML said he would speak to Callum MacKenzie to see if anything can be done. It was highlighted that Calum McKenzie would be visiting Barra on the following week. PMG agreed to meet to raise a number of issues.

**Action 1:** Cllr KML to speak to Callum MacKenzie regarding street light timing

**Action 2:** PMG and any other members to meet Callum MacKenzie on his visit.

**Speed Limit Castlebay;** Concerns have been raised about the speed of cars on the road from Nasg road end into Castlebay by local residents. These concerns have been raised by the Community council to Elected Wrd Cllrs.

Cllr KML stated CNES are hoping to make Castlebay 20mph around March 2025. Cllr KML stated he asked CnES roads department to consider extending the speed limit to Nasg end road and he was told no. CnES said wider consultation needs to take place.

**SEPA – Drains;** From a public health perspective IMN said he would contact SEPA about the drains as it has been going on too long. IMN confirmed the CNES have agreed to widen the drain outlet at the ball court to alleviate the flooding issue around the football pitch.

**Action 3:** Cllr IMN to speak with SEPA regarding drains; also speak with CMK to ask to meet with C+VCC

[Action 4: Cllr KM to speak with MB to discuss the work required for the drains](#)

*b) Hub Update*

**Castlebay School:** A project board has been put together to discuss the planning for the school campus; Cllrs IMN and KML are both on the board at their request. Planning permission has been submitted for the school and housing for additional care. MP Torcuil Critchon stated he fully supported the dire need for both the School and Hospital campus and would call for the Scottish Government on their promise immediately. He also backs the establishment of a cross party/community pressure group to campaign on this. This would also include raising all the concerns on patient travel and access to NHSWI services.

[Action 5: Cllr KML to speak with CMK regarding the work requirements at Castlebay school for enhanced transition](#)

**Hospital/Care Facility:** No further forward with any news or development in regards to the new hospital / Care facility.

( c ) Castle - SAM stated no update and she received an email to say Historic Scotland still waiting for high level masonry report.

[Action 6; SAM to follow up;](#)

## Other Items for the Agenda

- 5) Uist and Barra Association Community Council – EF attended an online meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30. EF has offered to continue to attend as C+VCC representative.
- 6) Update on Ballcourt - Community council agreed to be lease holders for the ballcourt and this is currently in negotiation. KD agreed to make an application to NHS Capital fund to help cover costs of works to be done in regards to replacing the existing fencing.
- 7) Ranger service - SML gave update on Ranger service and stated that there will be an island spring clean happening and the first clean that was done, 9 people cleared 117kg of rubbish from the beach.
- 8) Police phone lines - PC Phil gave an update in regards to the local police station phone lines no longer being active and people now need to phone 101 if need to contact police locally.

**Finances:** SAML updated on finances as follows:

£28,535.41 is the account total, of which most is ring-fenced as follows:

- £8,700 for bus stops however only half of this was used; the remaining amount will be used for Vatersay bus stop which is on order and maintenance.
- £18,000 still ringfenced for other ongoing projects and groups.

Date of Next Meeting: **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**

## Summary of Actions:

| No | Description  | Who      | Completed<br>✓ |
|----|--|----------|----------------|
| 1  | <u><a href="#">Cllr KML to speak to Callum MacKenzie regarding street light timing</a></u> | Cllr IMN |                |
| 2  | <u><a href="#">PMG and any other members to meet Callum MacKenzie on his visit</a></u>     |          |                |

|   |  |          |  |
|---|--|----------|--|
| 3 | Cllr IMN to speak with SEPA regarding drains; also speak with CMK to ask to meet with C+VCC            | Cllr IMN |  |
| 4 | Cllr KML to speak with MB to discuss the work required for the drains                                  | Cllr KML |  |
| 5 | Cllr KMN to speak with CMK regarding the work requirements at Castlebay school for enhanced transition | Cllr KML |  |
| 6 | SAM to follow up with Historic Scotland re updates   | SAM      |  |
| 7 |  |          |  |
| 8 |  |          |  |