

# Castlebay and Vatersay

## Community Council

### Minute/Note of Meeting

**TITLE** : General meeting  
**DATE/TIME** : 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025, 7PM  
**VENUE** : Barra Council Offices

#### CCC members Present:

Paul McGuire - Chair (PMG)  
 Katie Denehy (KD) - Vice Chair  
 Sarah Ann MacLeod (SAML) – Treasurer  
 Eileen Frater (EF) – Committee  
 Donald MacNeil (DMN) - Committee  
 Rose MacDougall (RMD) - Committee

#### In Attendance:

Cllr Iain MacNeil (IMN) Cllr Kenneth MacLean (KML)  
 Helen MacKinnon (HMK)

Apologies – SAML late

Minute Taker – KD/SA

<u>ITEM/ISSUE</u>	<u>SUMMARY</u>	<u>ACTION-WHO? WHAT?</u>
1)	WELCOME TO ALL IN ATTENDANCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2)	Minutes of previous meetings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> proposed by Eileen Frater and Seconded by Donald MacNeil
3) Matters arising/ continuing from last meeting:	<p>Summary of meeting with Calum Mackenzie and areas discussed;</p> <p><b>A) Roads, Streetlights;</b> PMG, IMN and Cllr Ùisdean Robertson met with Calum Mackenzie (CMK) Head of Assets and did walk around of Horve to highlight areas of blocked ditches in and around the football pitch and old muga court. Below are all the other areas that were discussed;</p> <p><b>B) Road markings:</b> Road surfacing due to take place <b>10th &amp; 11th May</b>. CNES will issue out information prior to this date.</p> <p><b>C) Speed Limit;</b> Nasg will be trialled for 30mph speed limit from <b>19th October</b>.</p>	

	<p><b>D) Crash Barriers;</b> The lack of crash barriers at corner outside Castlebay leading to BenTangabhal was raised.</p> <p><b>E) Drains;</b> Cllr IMN wrote to SEPA and spoke to Head of Environmental Services regarding smell of sewage from septic tank at Horve. Still awaiting reply.</p> <p><b>F) Culvert at Bridge in Horve;</b> CMK intimated they would not replace culvert at this present time.</p> <p><b>G) Ballcourt upgrade;</b> Ballcourt area was discussed with CMK in regards to the Community Council taking over the lease and discussion took place about how the area was going to be upgraded and developed into a community 2G Astro Turf Pitch. Funding is required as shortfall of <b>£20,000</b> to help pay for groundworks and installation.</p> <p><b>H) School/hub;</b> PMQ raised the concern with CMK regarding the school maintenance plan and heating. KML has raised this with Donald McLeod Director of Education who is down in Barra for next PC meeting.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> KD to apply to various funding bodies for funds to help raise this money</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> CLLR KML will raise this issue again with Director of Education</p>
<b>4) Abandoned Cars</b>	<p>Pier association has cut up abandoned cars that have been left at Vatersay Causeway with a view to making them easier to remove.  <u>Abandoned car at Garrygall quarry has been reported.</u>  Any abandoned cars need to be taken to market stance in Benbecula where CNES do uplifts.  Some discussion over the benefit of costing for a compactor to make process of moving these vehicles easier. However, it was agreed that this issue will require further discussion with Colin Fraser as this is a complicated issue to resolve in terms of logistics.  It was agreed there was a lack of parity for Barra &amp; Vatersay residents.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> CLLR IMN to liaise with Colin Fraser to establish next steps and seek advice on removal of abandoned cars</p>
<b>5) Hub Update - New School/Care Facility</b>	<p>Cllr IMN advised that the project board have met and looked at options for build. CnES will be making 11.4m contribution to the school but there is still a shortfall re hospital costs.  Costs have risen substantially since costing of original project. Significant shortfall means that there may be potential borrowing and that sustained political pressure will be required.  Cllr KML is hosting a cross-party meeting so as to engage all parties to include the project in all manifestos.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Cllr KML to update post cross-party meeting</p>

	No further forward with any news or development in regards to the new hospital / Care facility	<input type="checkbox"/> Cllr KML will update as structural works progress
	School Adjustments – Cllr KML advised that he had contacted Cala re structural adjustments required to accommodate for pupil requirements and Cala said that these works are in hand.	
<b>6) Area Forum Officer, Herring Walk</b>	<p>HMK advised that the lease for Herring Walk will continue until <b>31<sup>st</sup> March 2029</b> therefore in her role as Area Forum Officer, she has secured funding by means of grant from CBAB in order to help with costs for public liability and Herring Walk Improvements and Maintenance.</p> <p>After having sought and reviewed quotes - HMK proposed that grant allocation be used for following works-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reinstall barrels</li> <li>• 6 cuts of grass</li> <li>• Repair dry stone walling</li> <li>• Add flower and palm tree features</li> </ul> <p>All CC members agreed that this was a good use of funding and thanked HMK for her input.</p> <p>HMK also plans to engage further with Community regarding Island Plan through interactive feedback form online in order to help identify main priorities specific to Barra.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> KD To contact Kenny MacLeannan to discuss the timescale for works
<b>7) Change of Roles</b>	<p>SAML expressed her wish to step down as treasurer and has offered to take minutes instead as she feels she is better suited to this role.</p> <p>EF kindly agreed to take on the position of treasurer as she has experience in this role.</p> <p>DMN Proposed this motion and RMD seconded.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> SAML and EF to meet for handover of treasurer folder/info sharing
<b>8) Island Clean Ups</b>	The CC would like to thank our Barra Ranger who has recently organised several successful Island clean ups around the Island. The CC would like to sincerely thank those who have participated in any way.	

9) Castle Update	<p>SAML met with Jamie McPherson- the Head of North Region at Historic Environment Scotland HES on the 11<sup>th</sup> March. He is overseeing conservation works at Kisimul Castle, including the installation of new support systems and safe access for masonry inspections.</p> <p>He advised of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slipway repairs are underway</li> <li>• Overall risk status has been deescalated following recent inspections</li> <li>• Outstanding main issues are - new forestairs outside tower /great hall stabilisation through concrete block and heavy timbers</li> <li>• Digital team have made online 3D Castle (Sketchpad)</li> <li>• Digital Team have made 2x large 3D models of Castle, one of which will be given to the school.</li> <li>• Detailed Works programme timeline proposes Castle reopens in August 26.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> SAML to look for update on schedule of works.
10) FINANCIAL UPDATE	<p>14<sup>th</sup> April balance: £26026.87</p> <p>£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.</p> <p>· £18,000 still ringfenced for other ongoing projects and groups</p>	

**Next meeting – to be held in Vatersay Hall, Wednesday 11th June, 7pm**

**Summary of Actions:**

No	Description	Who	Completed ✓
1	Cllr KML to speak to Callum MacKenzie regarding street light timing	Cllr KML	
2	KD to contact MacLennan's for Herring walk works	KD	
3	Cllr IMN to speak with SEPA regarding drains	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	SAML to follow up with Historic Environment Scotland re updates	SAML	
7	Cllr IMN to follow up disused cars with Colin Fraser (CNES)	Cllr IMN	
8	KD to apply for funding re Muga court upgrade	KD	