



# MINUTES

Ness Community Council

*Date: 24/04/25 | Online*

## In Attendance

David Green Muriel MacLeod Cairstiona Macleod Annie MacSween

Alison MacDonald Mary Duff Cllr Donald MacSween Cllr John Norman Macleod

## Apologies

Chair: David Green

Donna MacIver Cllr Kenneth MacLeod

## AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes of meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025.
3. Matters Arising
4. Finance Report
5. Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response update: Village WhatsApp groups, Places of Refuge, Household Emergency Plans
6. Spiorad na Mara update: Community Benefit consultation
7. Housing: CnES Local Housing Strategy for 2025-30 and responses to CCN/NCC survey, 2024
8. Date and time of 2025 Annual General Meeting
9. Any Other Competent Business

## Point 1. Welcome/Apologies for Absence

Six members present and Councillor Donald MacSween; Apologies: Cllr Kenneth MacLeod, Cllr JN Macleod

## Point 2 Minutes of the Meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Approved by Cairstiona MacLeod and Mary Duff.

## Point 3 Matters Arising

- a) The area of Crown Estate Funding was discussed – reinforced the role of NCC as being a supportive body, taking the opportunity to support other groups in Ness to secure funding through this route.

The need for transparency was identified once more, following on from previous process leaving individuals unclear, or receiving conflicting information.

Funding Information so far:

Crown Estate - £94,236

Ness – Upper Barvas - £47,118

Lower Barvas – Dalbeg - £47,118

The deadline for applications is 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025. David Green is to contact Alice Murray to check in with the progress of the system in place for alerting local groups; specifically recommending a meeting be organized to invite groups to attend. Ness Community Council will share the application deadline on Facebook.

b) Lionel Swimming Pool – the regularity of closure due to staffing issues has been raised by the Ness community. Urras Oighreachd Gabhsainn has offered to pay for lifeguard training.

## Point 4 Finance Report

Cairstiona Macleod, Treasurer, shared the Ness Community Council Statement: £2933,82.

## Point 5 Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response update

David Green and Muriel MacLeod have been corresponding with organisations in connection with Emergency Preparedness. Muriel MacLeod again confirmed that grants are available, and there is also an excellent NHS Western Isles Website, as well as a Council Resilience website. Ness Community Council will ensure that the impetus is kept up, where community groups can usefully contribute. Setting up WhatsApp groups based on villages, which worked well during the pandemic was discussed and those willing to be added as administrators to different geographical area groups were noted. The suggestion of creating and displaying information posters in local hubs was welcomed.

Points of potential refuge areas were identified:

Comunn Eachdraidh Nis

Spòrsnis

Clan MacQuarrie Community Centre

The Wee Studio

Various Churches

Lionel Primary School

Devising a straightforward Home Emergency Plan with leaflets for individual households for immediate reference was discussed, and agreed to be progressed further. A scheme to promote the visibility of house

numbers, in conjunction with UoG, who previously gifted the Estate with house numbers, and also included Cross Skigersta Road residents in this project.

## Point 6 Spiorad na Mara Update:

The NCC will encourage people to respond to surveys and share their opinions in the coming months, at the opportunities which arise for consultation. Decisions are to be made locally by affected communities, and there will be a planning application placed, probably in June 2025.

## Point 7 Housing CnES Local Housing Strategy 2025-30 and responses to CCN/NCC survey, 2024

Council Housing Strategy

Outer Hebrides Housing scheme

The UOG Survey targeting local housing concerns will be circulated and the NCC will publicise and promote engagement with this.

Muriel Macleod has now collated all the responses from the questions set in the Ness Community Council local survey, an extensive task for which we as a group are grateful for her having undertaken. Muriel MacLeod has split the data into categories and identified which organisations/departments should receive which updated information, in order to facilitate action being taken in response to the information being passed on.

Update on previously identified Action Points for NCC from the collated Ness Community Council Survey categories:

1. CNES Bus issue – Councillor Donald MacSween
2. Publicise Local Businesses – collaborate with Fios – Donna MacIver
3. Collate information on Skilled Tradespeople – Cairstiona MacLeod
4. Feeder Bus service – publicise this service via NCC – Mary Duff

## Point 8 Date and time of 2025 Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 8.00pm

## Point 9 Any Other Competent Business

The issue of changing the location of a bus shelter, or adding a new bus shelter in Dell was raised – David Green will investigate and correspond with relevant parties.

The playpark in Edgemoor Square was noted as being in a state of disrepair and the NCC decided to look into ways to help improve this facility.

Alex Murray Construction's plans to build eight houses in Ness, and the impact the location of the actual buildings may have on local neighbours and crofts, was discussed.