

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 12th March 2025, Breasclete Community Centre at 7.30

Present: Angus Alex Mackenzie, Jacqui Ferguson, Cllr Ranald Fraser, Kenny-John MacLennan, Fraser Macdonald, Cllr Misty Macdonald, Noreen Macdonald, Malcolm Mackay, Angus Smith, Nick Styles

Apologies: Alice Murray, Christina Murray, Lorraine Ballantine

Minutes of Previous Meeting: F. Macdonald, 2nd K J MacLennan

Matters Arising:

Bus Shelter: Schedule of repairs to bus shelters being prepared by CnES

Church Car Park lighting: Will be dealt with by Church

Callanish Visitor Centre: Refurbishment continuing. Information requested on history of farmhouse for exhibition. A. Smith will find out if Cuminich has any articles.

Defibrillator: BCA will organise first aid refresher courses.

Local Plan: Reply received from A Murray. D. Mackinnon to update.

CnES Budget: Cllr Fraser explained the budget setting. Crown Estate funding (now renamed Coastal Communities Revenue Fund) £1.86million, CnES pulling £830K from that figure and 11 wards will share the rest. He estimates £47K coming to ward 6. £7 million of savings identified which includes a 7.5% raise in Council tax. There will be no redundancies, but vacancies may not be filled. Community Councillors noted concerns on retaining expertise, and succession planning in the Comhairle if vacancies were being left unfilled. Cllrs informed members that there was discussion with Scottish Government on bringing public services into alignment. Next year's budget setting was already underway.

Coastal Communities Fund: will be open for bids in the next few months.

Correspondence: Correspondence circulated previously via email. Clerk highlighted the increasing number of consultations that were being sent to Community Councils, and the burden that had on members, not to mention administration time spent. Discussion on the impact of this.

Renewables:

N4: Consultation meeting on community benefit to be held by Aquatera on behalf of Northland on Friday 14th March

Grimshader and Heastabhal: report on community benefits.

General discussion on difficulty and effectiveness of community consultations.

AOB:

Workplace Charging Scheme: Discussion on 75% grant for installation of vehicle charging stations at workplaces and community enterprises.

Speed Limit: Discussion on need for speed limit signs through Callanish, and clearer identification of footpath and cycle lane. This was particularly important going into the next tourist season, given the potential increase in pedestrians due to the visitor centre refurbishment. Cllr Fraser will organise a meeting with Comhairle, UNT and contractor to discuss this.

Date of next meeting: 9th April 2025 at 7.30 pm.