

Uig Community Council

Draft Minute of Meeting

TITLE : Uig Community Council

DATE : 10th March 2025 TIME : 7.30pm

VENUE : Uig Community Centre

DISTRIBUTION : To all Council Members

Present: Norman (Norrie) Mackay (Chair), , Janet MacNaughton, Calum-George Buchanan, Jamie Dobson, ,
Julia Shaw (via Zoom), Cllr. Norman (Misty) Macdonald

Attending: Sophie Brown (Clerk), Amanda Humble

Condolences noted for Lois Darley

Item		Summary and Action	Who?	When?
1	Apologies	Peter Macdonald, Caroline Bishop, Alice Murray (CNES)		
2	Approval of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Jamie noted that the £18 for the printing of questionnaires was paid to Events Stornoway rather than directly to him.- There was a discussion re. the role of the Carloway Trust in the Westside Community Benefit group. SB to clarify. <p>The minute of the February meeting was approved.</p>	SB	

Item	Summary and Action	Who?	When?
<p>3. Update from Aquatera prior to Public Meeting on 15th March</p> <p>(error on the agenda, which stated the 25th March)</p>	<p>Ian Johnstone, Director, Aquatera, provided an online update prior to the public meeting due to be held in Uig on the 15th March.</p> <p>Aquatera is the Orkney based consultancy firm that has been contracted by Spiorod Na Mara to undertake a consultation regarding the community benefit fund, which will distribute £4.5m for the 35-year lifespan of the project if N4 goes ahead.</p> <p>They will be asking residents on the Westside of Lewis (Council Wards 6 & 7) what community benefit funds could be spent on – what are the themes / key elements in the funding pot.</p> <p>Representatives from Aquatera will be on Lewis from Wednesday 12th – Saturday 15th March, with seven events scheduled across the Westside to collect the views of residents. These have been advertised as widely as possible – both in local press and online.</p> <p>For residents that cannot make the face-to-face meeting there will be an online event the following week.</p> <p>The two key elements of the consultation will be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the key themes / spending priorities for a community benefit fund. 2. How will this be administered. <p>Feedback will be gathered via a short questionnaire – paper copies and open online until the end of March. There is then a quick turnaround for Aquatera to feed back to Spiorad na Mara.</p> <p>Janet asked that they Aquatera release the number of questionnaires completed versus the population size / response rate.</p> <p>Ian hoped that people see the discussion around the proposed community benefit fund as an opportunity for the Westside of Lewis whether residents like the N4 project or not. They will look to get younger people involved as it has the potential to provide funds for 35 years.</p>		

		<p>Individuals and organisations can complete the online form at:</p> <p>https://spioradnamaracommunity.uk/posts/</p>		
4	Finance	<p>It was noted that the business account is at £7147.19 Savings / Reserve account is £5083.06</p> <p>Julia emailed prior to the meeting to note that as she has recently come off the electoral list as she is in England visiting family. Because of this she cannot be a voting member on the Uig Community Council as she longer permanently resides in the area, however she can be a non-voting Associate Member and continue in the role as Treasurer. The minute of the AGM would need to state this.</p> <p>Members of the UCC confirmed that they were comfortable with this approach if Julia is happy to continue as Treasurer.</p>		
5	Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Torcuil Chrichton MP will attend the April UCC meeting. Jamie to circulate the final report from the Telecoms and Internet Working Group (see item 7). Murdo Buchanan has requested that there is no further correspondence from UCC regarding the report. This agreed and Norrie to pass on apologies. - Machair Road, Ardrol – update required on whether campsite will open this summer. 	<p>JD</p> <p>Norrie</p> <p>SB</p>	

Item		Summary and Action	Who?	When?
6	Councillors' Update	<p>Councillors noted that the Crown Estate fund for Sgìr' Ùige agus Carlabhagh Ward will be £94,000. Therefore, approximately £47,000 will be allocated for Uig and Bernera. This fund is now called the Coastal Communities Fund.</p> <p>Each application will need to be for a minimum of £5,000 per application and the fund will open in the next couple of months.</p> <p>BT Manholes – people have burst their tyres on the manholes in Kinloch Roag. Misty to flag this.</p> <p>It was noted that there had been a query from John Norgrove re. planning consent for the quarry in Uig. How big can the main quarry go, and can they improve the landscaping? What area does it cover and timelines? The quarry can't go much further back because of the Loch. Is the quarry monitored? Ranald to query this with planning.</p>	<p>NM</p> <p>RF</p>	
Item		Summary and Action	Who?	When?
7	Telecomms and Internet Working Group	<p>Jamie has received a verbal assurance from BT that the PSTN landline facility will not be withdrawn from anyone who cannot be provided with a viable alternative. Letter to be sent from BT confirming this. Jamie to chase.</p> <p>OFCOM has a legal responsibility to ensure that there are suitable communication services. Torcuil Crichton can raise this with OFCOM if necessary</p> <p><u>List of actions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Older members of the community have high levels of anxiety/stress about the potential loss of phone. Request that BT dispatch their presentation team to Uig. 2. Push for BT to sustain the existing PSTN system for a further year and advance the digital exchange at Miavaig. Request again from BT via Torcuil 	<p>JD</p> <p>UCC</p> <p>UCC</p>	

		<p>3. CNES has emergency arrangements for deploying radios if there is a telecoms failure. Need to know that this is in place in Uig and where radios are / how to access them.</p> <p>4. Contingency plans to be developed for emergency response should the 4G mast be down.</p> <p>5. Those dependent on communications via mobile should have battery back-up. The hydro give out batteries for people with electric beds/chairs if there is a planned power cut. BT should have a similar system to protect vulnerable individuals.</p> <p>6. UCC should pull together a community resilience check list – as part of Ready Scotland. SB to forward information from Ness Community Council.</p> <p>7. Community Shop to outline back-up plans re. fuel if the internet is down.</p> <p>8. Forward report to Torcuil Crichton. Jamie to forward final version of report to SB.</p>	<p>JD</p> <p>UCC</p> <p>UCC/JD</p> <p>SB</p> <p>JD/SB</p>	
8	Scottish Water Access Track - Miavaig	<p>UCC discussed the proposed Scottish Water access to track in Miavaig. Calum George noted that Bhalto's Grazings has already objected.</p> <p>It was felt that it was likely that the track will wash away and as Uig is a national scenic area this track shouldn't be allowed. Scottish Water already have access along the top of the Glen from Eireastadh. Ranaid to find out if it has gone through a final application process.</p> <p>Is there a Scottish Water plan for all these access tracks – a similar one has been in Scalpay?</p>	<p>RF</p> <p>RF/NM</p>	
7	Update on Noticeboard and Mealista Memorial	No further update. Norrie will check whether planning is needed to install the stone.	NM	
8	AOCB	<p>The Annual General Meeting for Uig Community Council will take place on Monday 5th May. Sophie to advertise at least 28 days in advance.</p> <p>Julia Shaw to provide final accounts. Any queries can be checked with Shona Hadwen, CNES. Invite Catriona Maclean.</p>	<p>SB</p> <p>SB</p>	

		<p>Calum George noted that Uig Sgoil has received £5,000 from Cnip Campsite towards the playground upgrades. Total raised now up to £7,500. Calum to ask the school for a fully costed plan.</p> <p>Misty confirmed that Donald Macleod had noted that CNES will provide funds for school improvements note in the recent inspection. CNES are also coming back to fix drainage issues at the back of the school. There is the potential for the Uig School PTA to apply for Crown Estate funding.</p>	CG	
	Date and Time of Next Meeting	<p>Date of next meeting: 7th April 2024 @ 7.30pm in Green Room, Uig Community Centre</p> <p>AGM will take place at 7:30pm on the 5th May.</p>		