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AIRIDHANTUIM COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING – Thursday 16th January 2025

PRESENT:

Roderick J Martin (Chair), Alexander Jack (Vice Chair), Donald A Macdonald, Kenneth N Graham, Matthew Maciver, Iain Maciver, Robert Gillies, Donna Dorris, Iain Murray, James McCartney, Shaun Macdonald, Sophie Carter-Clavell (in the role of Clerk only)

APOLOGIES:

Kenneth Macleod (Cllr), D Macsween (Cllr), John N Macleod (Cllr), Mairi Macdonald (Treasurer), Marina Matheson, Murdo Nicholson, Alice Murray

RESIDENTS:

Mr & Mrs Borland, Callum Macdonald, Elenor Macleay, Donald J Morrison, Ivo Rijnj, Laura van Wijngaarden

Item	Details	Action
1. Welcome & Apologies	Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting – apologies noted as above.	Chair
2. Approval of previous Minutes	Minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2024 were agreed as accurate – proposed by Alexander Jack and seconded by Matthew Maciver. A copy of these approved Minutes is to be submitted to CnES (Shona Hadwen), Alice Murray and UOG in due course.	Clerk
3. Matters Arising from previous Minutes	<p><u>Crown Estate Forum - Area Forum</u> Correspondence provided from CnES to confirm the Area Forum meeting will be arranged once Crown Estate Funding has been received and agreed by CnES. No further action required at this time.</p>	Noting
	<p><u>Public Toilet Provision - Stornoway</u> Update received on 19th November 2024 from KML (Cllr) and Calum Mackenzie (Chief Officer Assets & Infrastructure) shared. This confirmed the reason the toilets were closed during the aforementioned period (staff absence) and that the facilities are generally open every day from 10am until 6pm with 24hr access to anyone who is disabled in possession of a Radar key.</p>	Noting
	<p><u>Kiosk Road Borve</u> Noted by members of the Community Council that there are still vehicles parking in the road on occasion. No further feedback received from BT after a BT employee informed DMD they would report to Senior Management after concerns were raised previously. Ongoing vigilance was recommended to be maintained by members/ residents.</p>	Noting

3. Matters Arising from previous Minutes cont.	<p><u>High Borve Shore Road - Passing Place</u> Suggestion made that ACC could look at a similar proposal to the Lower Shader Grazings Committee with ACC considering supporting any shortfall in CAGS grant availability. Next steps to be taken by DMD are to contact UOG if the road is ascertained to be unadopted.</p> <p><u>Steinacleit Road</u> No reply to Chairs correspondence in regards to the poor condition of the road from Historic Environment Scotland at this time. Clerk confirmed to follow up for a response.</p> <p><u>Speed Limits</u> Information regarding the National Speed Management review provided, including the date of the consultation taking place in Stornoway Town Hall on the 11th February 2025 and the online consultation. Members and residents advised speeding was still an issue in their villages, including during the daytime hours. Concerns were raised about safety when walking. The ongoing work the Community Council has done towards lowering the speed limit in Galson was highlighted. DMD provided the process to members and residents on reporting speeding vehicles.</p>	<p>DMD</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Noting</p>
4. Northland Power	<p>Information and correspondence received at Offshore Wind Community Benefit Wind meeting in November 2024 was provided. It was highlighted that the consultation for the community benefit fund is separate from the consultation about the wind farm project itself as advised at the meeting. It was noted that the new Project Director for Spiorad na Mara has been appointed. Noise concerns were also raised with reference to local onshore wind projects as an example. Topic to be retained on Agenda as a standing item.</p>	<p>Noting</p>
5. Emergency Planning & Community Response Meeting	<p>Chair provided an update from the meeting attended on 11th December 2024. Further discussion will be needed between Ness Community Council, UOG and Airidhantuim Community Council to confirm exactly what can be provided for the community response aspect. Ness Community Council to be contacted for meeting availability.</p>	<p>RM/ DMD</p>
6. Proposed Formal Change to ACC area boundary - taking in North Galson	<p>Correspondence received from Ness Community Council provided to members and residents confirming that this is a matter for the residents of North Galson to decide but they have no objection to the proposal. Clerk to contact Ness Community Council to see if they have contacted the Council with their decision.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
7. Financial Report	<p>A detailed Report was provided in advance of the meeting by Donnie Macdonald (Hon Treasurer) and shared with the members and also with all present at the meeting. Bank account stands at £9342 currently, but with several ongoing projects that should use up the surplus funds.</p>	<p>Noting</p>
8. Project Updates	<p><u>Footpath – Airidhantuim to Borve (DMD/SMD)</u> Progress reported by DMD on correspondence and quotes received. It was noted and agreed that the expenses of the proposed project were very high. Concerns were raised over the use of gravel instead of tar and potential accessibility issues. If completed it was agreed it would be very useful for the public and community. No reply received to the last round of correspondence sent in December 2024 - DMD to follow up with this to source any potential funding for the proposal.</p> <p><u>Info Board for Old Borve Bridge(DMD/RM)</u> Chair shared quote obtained for proposed project, this included all costs excluding installation. Noted that Planning Permission will need to be sought for the project in due course. It was raised that the sign should be constructed of an adequate material and weather appropriate placement considered to prevent fading - as seen in other local project signs. IMI to provide quote for installation costs. Two separate quotes will be required as per previously agreed policy.</p>	<p>DMD</p> <p>IMI / RM</p>

<p>8. Project Updates cont.</p>	<p><u>Clan MacQuarrie Memorial (DMD/RM)</u> A design was put forward by the Chair, with donated material (stone). Images were provided of the material (stone), all attending agreed on this design and idea proposal. Next steps to be taken are for installation quotes to be obtained by DMD/RM.</p> <p><u>Shader River walkway extension Costs (MM/MMD)</u> Nothing to discuss at this time and no further correspondence received. Item to be carried forward on Agenda.</p> <p><u>Shader Shore Road Layby/croft access (DMD/MMI)</u> Progress reported by DMD on correspondence sent to the Lower Shader Grazings Committee and UOG in regards to partially funding the project. UOG confirmed there would be no issue with progressing a CIF application for a 33% funding grant provided the road is not adopted by CnES. The Lower Shader Grazings Committee agreed to pay a third of the costs. The initial two quotes for the project have been obtained, a third is to be sourced by DMD. Next steps; DMD will also correspond with the relevant parties (UOG/CnES) to ascertain if the road is adopted.</p>	<p>DMD/ RM</p> <p>Noting</p> <p>DMD</p>
<p>9. AOB</p>	<p><u>Community Challenge Funding</u> All advised about the Community Challenge funding as per the correspondence received from CnES. As no application needed and this funding is allocated on a pro-rata basis and the final figure / payment date is to be confirmed in the next few weeks - no further action required.</p> <p><u>Equality Act 2010 consultation</u> Correspondence was shared in reference to the consultation with all, no further action required.</p> <p><u>Ditching</u> It was complemented by Community Council members and residents attending that ditching work completed so far in Borge has been excellent and to a high standard. It was raised that quite a lot of Borge has not yet been done, including parts of the main road. Clerk to contact Councillors to ask if the remaining areas can be considered for ditching.</p> <p><u>Sea View, High Borge</u> Safety concerns for the structure of the property were raised. The property was described to be in a derelict state with a worsening condition including broken windows and much debris. It was noted in the last gale there was a serious risk to nearby properties and road users. It was asked at the meeting who would be best to raise this issue to - Clerk to contact the Councillors for further advice and direction.</p> <p><u>Cemetery Road, Barvas</u> It was noted that the Cemetery road in Barvas had been recently repaired.</p> <p><u>Airidhantuim School</u> Chair shared correspondence received from the new owners, which confirmed formal plans are currently being made for the property.</p>	<p>Noting</p> <p>Noting</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Noting</p> <p>Noting</p>
<p>10. Date of Next Meeting</p>	<p>Agreed as Tuesday 25th March 2025 at 7.30pm at CMCC, Borge. Council to be notified, including Agenda provided to them 7 days in advance. Meeting to be suitably advertised on social media nearer time – 14 days beforehand and repeated in lead-in to the meeting date.</p>	<p>Noting</p> <p>Clerk</p>