

BREASCLETE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 4th November 2024, Breasclete Community Centre at 7.30

Present: Angus Alex Mackenzie, Jacqui Ferguson, Christina Murray, Kenny-John MacLennan, Fraser Macdonald, Malcolm Mackay, Lorraine Ballantine, Noreen Macdonald, Cllr Ranald Fraser, John Smith, Cllr Misty Macdonald, Tim Eagle, MSP, Liz Macbain, Gwen Carrick

Apologies: Angus Smith,

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Approved K. MacLennan 2nd C. Murray

Matters Arising:

Ditching: ongoing programme on westside. Blue flags indicating areas to be worked on

Bus Shelter: Appropriate Perspex is on order, repair by Christmas

Challenge Fund: £500 approx will be dispersed to all community councils.

Callanish Visitor Centre: Lewis builders are on site and progressing with the project.

Access to stones through the site was now closed. Suggestion that visitors park at sea wall and walk up steep hill. Public transport buses can still turn at the entrance as before. Concern that bus service had been stopped from going in, but this was not the case. The winter timetable is now operational and not all buses are called at the centre. There were opportunities for local enterprises to utilise toilets and catering trailer, subject to agreements

Callanish 2 and 3: UOC and HES were looking at options for repairing the paths, along with the grazings committee. This was in very early stages. J. Smith suggested accessing Paths for All funding, and taking in other sites outwith the Carloway Trust area.

Local Place Plan: Due for updating by September 2025. Was previously part of the Dalmore to Lochgavich plan – with D.Mackinnon.

Policing: Reply received from Justice Secretary Angela Constance. Councillors unhappy with reply. T. Eagle said he would raise the issues in the Scottish Parliament. There was further discussion on these concerns.

WITGA: report given on meeting on the closure of the visitor centre during construction. After discussion, BCC support the project, and will continue to represent the community on the UNT board, working with the other agencies currently involved. It was hoped that WITGA will work with the spirit of the project and look forward to the completion of the project. Clerk to write to WITGA to that effect.

Renewables:

N4: Public consultations had taken place, and current round was now closed. Further consultation will take place in the New Year.

A separate consultation would take place on the proposed community benefit if the project were to go ahead. Representatives from the West Side Estates Group will be engaging with community stakeholders to update them on this in the coming weeks. Cllr Fraser reported that the Comhairle was looking at island wide funding for the onshore elements.

Grimshader and Heastabhal: Community Liaison Groups met and discussed community benefits. Proposal was between 1% and 25% community share in enterprise for communities within 10km, only when electricity was generated. Wind speed

monitoring was still being carried out. Community consultations were delayed until early next year. The next meeting is in January.
There was further discussion on renewables, community benefit and Net Zero in general.

AOB:

CNES funding: Councillors reported that there would be significant cuts to all budgets in the upcoming round. This was discussed in light of funding received by Scottish Government from crown estate and renewables.

Further discussion on finance and funding took place. The cuts to HIE funding were a concern for island communities, particularly the loss of development worker posts before they had been able to make an impact. The importance of development workers to rural island communities was highlighted to the MSP.

War Memorial: The area at the rear of the war memorial had been cleared up by Breedons through their community fund
Urras and Taighe Mhoir: Request for Breasclete Community Council to be the named applicant on the planning application. All agreed.

The Chairman expressed gratitude to Tim Eagle, MSP, for attending the meeting and addressing all the relevant issues. In response, Mr. Eagle thanked the council and noted that he would consider the concerns raised. He also mentioned that he gained a better understanding of the impact on island communities.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 11th December 2024