



MINUTES

Comhairle Coimhearsnachd Nis/Ness Community Council

Date: 10/09/24 |

Location: Taigh Dhonnchaidh

In Attendance

David Green (chairperson) Muriel MacLeod Cairstiona Macleod Annie MacSween Donna Maciver Cllr Kenneth Macleod Netty Sopata

Apologies

Alison Macdonald Mary Duff Cllr Donald MacSween

Point 1 Welcome & Minutes Approval

David welcomed us all to our September meeting, our July minutes were approved by Cairstiona and seconded by Muriel.

Point 2 Spiorad na Mara

The community benefits have now been offered but they have not been decided upon, with negotiations ongoing between the developer and the Westside Estates group. Cllr Kenneth Macleod stated that if it all goes ahead and is approved that we should as an Island be putting money aside for the future rather than spending it all every year. Otherwise after the 35 years we would have spent it all. Reserves would be a smart thing to do.

He further suggested that the money will be spent over the whole of the Western Isles not just the areas immediately affected by it. This will be clarified by the current negotiations.

A discussion about the possibility of cheaper electricity being provided resulted in the understanding that this is not feasible via the Spiorad na Mara project.

Point 3 Local Development Plan

The deadline for this is fast approaching. However although emailed, we have had no word from Alice Murray, the Lead Officer.

Point 4 Community Consultation Responses

We had 40 responses to our community questionnaire. These were available online and in paper copies in the local shops. The responses have been collated by Muriel and any that are relevant to different areas will be forwarded to those that could help. A lot of issues were raised regarding the condition of

the roads and transport; these will be sent to the relevant departments in the council. Other areas that were brought up were: Policing, Drugs, Home Care, Deer and Geese.

Point 5 Crown Estate Funding

This was discussed at the previous meeting and action points were put together that we thought should be put in place going forward. For example, the two catchment areas will be better served as they will have three meetings in the year when they will be informed about things in advance. This will make it easier for discussions to be had before the actual funding is awarded. These are all positive outcomes that will help next year.

Point 5 Matters Arising from the September meeting.

1. It was brought up as a discussion point, whether we would offer meetings online. David has contacted Shona Hadwen to ask and she pointed us towards the correct documentation. The documents tell us that we can legally, however we discussed whether we wanted this or not. The consensus was that although some extra members of the public may join if we offered it, it would add in a lot more set up time and work. Also we were not sure if people would be likely to join and then put their cameras off which would be intrusive.

We decided we would review the situation in a year's time.

2. Torquil Crichton is to be invited soon to our meetings. We are aware he is settling into his new role and that he is very busy.
3. Annie brought up the issue of the ferry passengers having to walk off the ferry via the car deck, due to the walkway being broken and no action being taken from any of the relevant bodies. The Stornoway port Authority, their insurers and Calmac are all arguing about whose responsibility it is, meaning that no-one is taking responsibility. This needs to be addressed urgently, there have already been injuries from individuals walking across the car deck who should not have had to be there. We will write a letter to the Councillors, CnES, Stornoway Port Authority and Calmac themselves.

Actions Agreed:

Agenda Point	Action	By Whom
Matters Arising	Letter to be written to the four parties involved in the ferry walkway.	David Green

Community Questionnaire	Questionnaire responses to be sent to relevant parties in CnES, etc.	Muriel Murray & David Green
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The next full meeting, to which members of the community are invited, will be held on Tuesday, 12th November, 2024 at 8.00 pm in Taigh Dhonnchaidh.