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| **Date** | Wednesday 5th February 2020 |
| **Time** | 7.30pm |
| **Venue** | An Talla |
| **Present** | **Councilors Present:** John Holliday, Phyl Meyer, John Patience, Gerard McGoogan,  Alison Clark  **Apologies:** Ian Gillies  **District Councilors Present**: Mary-Jean Devon (phone)  **Trust Staff Present:** Shari MacKinnon  **Public:** 9 |

# Welcome and apologies

* + The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting, and thanked Mary-Jean Devon for joining the meeting by telephone link.

# Conflict of Interest

* + None.

# Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

* + MJD confirmed that she has spoken with Ross MacLachlan regarding the public toilets. Ross had hoped to come to Tiree and meet with Tiree Community Business regarding this project but this is to be rescheduled as his flight to Tiree was cancelled due to bad weather.
  + It was agreed to ask if there are any plans to update the ‘Isle of Tiree Sustainable Design Guidance’ document. ***PM TO ACTION CFWD.***
  + A discussion took place regarding TCCs role in planning applications. MJD reported that other community councils do get quite involved in making comments etc. on local applications and this was noted.
  + It was noted that the problems encountered by those making use of the Patient Travel Scheme seems to have now been resolved. JH has been in touch with the medical records team, who are now dealing with bookings and it was noted that they have offered to send representation to attend a TCC meeting to discuss this matter if required.
  + Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership (HITRANS) were due to get in touch with John MacCaskill, Tiree Transport Forum (TTF) to discuss representation from Tiree on the group. It is unsure whether this has happened.
  + The minutes of the previous meeting (December 2019) were approved. Proposed by PH and seconded by AC.

# Correspondence

* + Letters had been received from two individuals regarding the new system for ordering repeat prescriptions from the doctor’s surgery. It was also noted that various individuals had also passed verbal comments to Councillors regarding this. It was noted that there are currently 4 different ways that a repeat prescription can now be ordered: post, in person, email and telephone (if necessary). It is assumed that the surgery are trying to encourage the telephone option be avoided if at all possible, allowing the telephone line to be free for use. It was agreed to send a response to the letters to clarify the situation. ***JH TO ACTION.***
  + Joe Reade, Mull & Iona Ferry Users Group - Chairperson was due to come to Tiree to attend a meeting with TTF. This meeting has not taken place, and a phone meeting has now been scheduled.
  + Consultation is currently taking place regarding National Planning Framework. MJD gave a verbal description of this, explaining that it was still in the very early stages and it was noted that more information regarding this will be available in the near future.
  + Consultation is currently taking place regarding Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy. This plan has been reviewed and it was noted that the nearest area referred to in the plan is Colonsay/Islay. This was discussed and it was agreed that as this doesn’t apply to Tiree that no comment will be made. It was agreed to respond and express thanks for the opportunity to comment. ***GMG TO ACTION.***
  + A report from Police Scotland was received and read out by JH. It was noted that 7 incidents occurred during the two month period, including vandalism at Kenovay. Police Scotland appeal for anyone with information regarding this incident to get in touch. One incident related to livestock worrying and it was reminded that dogs should be kept under control around livestock.
  + The current planning applications for Tiree have been reviewed by TCC.
  + It was noted that an application for a license has been made by Tiree Whisky Company for the distillery in West Hynish.

# Land Below the Waves – Scottish Parliament Visit

# A group of representatives from Tiree will attend a reception at the Scottish Parliament on 18th March.

# The reception will be attended by Ministers and Chief Executives. Michael Matheson (Cabinet Secretary for Transport) will open the event and Mike Russell will be speaking at the event. Tiree School Choir will perform, films about Tiree will be shown and there will be various stalls run by local groups and businesses.

# Requests have been made to meet with 5 Ministers during the afternoon, prior to the reception.

# Meetings have been held with TCDT to discuss and agree on issues that will be discussed. Important issues on the agenda for include infrastructure at Gott Bay pier and Tiree airport.

# MJD reported that it is likely that more Marine Protected Areas will be introduced in the future. It was agreed that this will be discussed at the Parliament visit.

# A bus has been hired to transport those attending from Oban, directly to Edinburgh.

# AC reported that she is investigating opening a new bank account to run the finances of this project. It was agreed to discuss this with TCDT. *AC TO ACTION.*

# Linkspan Replacement

* + It was noted that Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) held a consultation event on Tiree in January regarding the linkspan replacement. The general feeling from the event was that all arrangements have been sorted out in advance of the closure and that the project will be a success.
  + MacLennan Motors reported that all arrangements for food deliveries are arranged.
  + It was noted that a license has been secured for transporting fuel, if required. MacLennan Motors reported that they do not expect this to be required.
  + Crofters are still concerned regarding access for animal feeding during the closure.
  + It was noted a crane will be located on the pier, and this will be used for loading/unloading the freight vessel.
  + It was noted that this consultation event was held too late in relation to the project commencing. It did not leave enough time for serious concerns to be addressed.
  + A member of the public commented that they do not have faith in this operation and recommended that TCC make a recommendation to the community of Tiree to avoid ordering freight to be delivered during the linkspan works.
  + It was noted that both MacLennan Motors and I A MacKinnon Haulage have been advising their customers to ensure they have ordered what they require so it will be delivered prior to the linkspan closure.

1. **Parking & Traffic Flow at Gott Bay Pier**

* A request has been made to CMAL to view the latest set of plans for the Pierhead area as there are concerns that there is a lack of parking spaces available.
* It was noted that CMAL own the car park and there is a service level agreement in place between CMAL and Calmac – who operate the car park. Calmac have no power in relation to removing abandoned vehicle from the car park.
* It is assumed that a set of rules and regulations regarding the car park would need to be displayed at the car park regarding its use before the Police could become involved in removing abandoned vehicles.
* Investigations are ongoing with Argyll Estates to look into the possibility of obtaining more land for parking.
* It was suggested that TCC should try and find out who owns the abandoned cars and issue a letter suggesting they are removed.
* MJD reported that it may be possible to get them ticketed and removed. Details of this to be investigated. ***MJD TO ACTION.***
* It was noted that Calmac are to install an electric vehicle charging point.
* A member of the public asked if there is going to be a dedicated area at the pier head for cyclists. It was agreed to request information from CMAL regarding this. ***?? TO ACTION.***
* A member of the public asked if there are any plans of a sheltered waiting area at the bottom of the pier. It was noted that this is in the pipeline and further info will be available following the linkspan works.

1. **Tiree Airport – Runway Closure**

* The concrete north/south runway is currently shut. This is a temporary closure while Highlands & Islands Airport Ltd (HIAL) and industry professionals assess and review the future viability of such parts of the runway and the costs associated with re-habilitating the area. It was noted that a repair to this runway would be very expensive.
* TCC have submitted a letter of concern regarding the potential loss of this runway to HIAL.
* A member of the public asked who the engineers were that produced the report regarding the runway, and if it was in the public domain. It is not known who produced the report; this was investigated by TCC previously.

1. **SAAB Aircraft Replacement Programme**

* It was noted that Loganair are currently phasing out their fleet of Saab aircrafts.
* SAAB 340 aircraft are currently used to service Tiree on occasions when there are technical problems with the Twin Otter aircraft.
* The aircraft Loganair are replacing the SAAB fleet with are not able to land on Tiree as the runways do not have the required infrastructure.
* TTF have raised concerns that Tiree will only be serviced by Twin Otter aircraft, and are investigating if Loganair have plans to lease additional Twin Otter aircraft.
* This issue is on the agenda for the Scottish Parliament visit.

1. **Coll Airport Fire Cover**

* It was reported that Coll airport closed today. The closure is due to Scottish Fire and Rescue, who employed the airport workers, pulling out of the contact.
* Argyll & Bute Council advertised the vacancies at the airport. It was reported that interest was shown from 4 individuals, but the airport will remain shut until the applicants are appointed and have undergone training.
* TCC are concerned that the closure of Coll airport could affect the viability of the Tiree – Oban air service.
* A member of the public commented that since the Tiree – Oban service has been reduced to one flight a week that this had led to issues in getting an appointment with the physiotherapist and podiatrist. This is due to a reduction in visits to the island by these professionals, so a longer waiting list.

1. **Tiree Transport Forum Meeting**

* JH verbally summarised the main points of the TTF meeting that took place in January. It was noted that the minutes for this meeting are now available on TCC website. It was noted that John MacCaskill stood down as chairperson.
* A member of the public asked if the fuel license would cover both petrol and diesel. It is unsure what the license covers.
* A member of the public asked if the new linkspan had been delivered to Tiree yet as it was thought it was meant to be here by now. It is assumed that it has not yet been delivered to Tiree.
* A member of the public asked what was happening with the sale of fuel on the island with the closure of MacLennan Motors. It was reported that Tiree Trust have set up a fuel subgroup that are currently working on this project and investigating a community owned fuel station. Indications are that MacLennan Motors will not leave the island without a fuel supply although they originally stated that they intended to close in March this year.
* Following the previous question the member of the public asked if there was any way the community could be kept better informed of the status of the project as they stated there are people concerned that there will be no petrol supply on the island after March. It was advised that there are discussions ongoing within the fuel subgroup with regards to emergency/backup plans and it was advised to make direct contact with Tiree Trust regarding this. It was agreed the TCC should approach Tiree Trust directly regarding this and request more information. ***JH TO ACTION.***

1. **Road Users Guide**

* This document has been reviewed and the re-draft for this is now complete and is currently available to view on TCC website. There will be a 2 week consultation period before printing.
* A member of the public asked what the need for this document was – why don’t we just follow the Highway Code? It was noted that the Highway Code does not reference single track roads.
* A member of the public asked would this document be placed on the ferry. It was confirmed that this will be displayed on the ferry.
* A member of the public asked what the speed limit was for single track roads. It was noted that the speed limit is 60 MPH.
* A member of the public commented that either Mull or Islay have made a video regarding road use on the island. They confirmed they would find a link to the video and pass it on as it may be relevant to Tiree as well.
* A member of the public suggested that the car hire company should be encouraged to make their users aware of the leaflet.

1. **Argyll Estates Meeting**

* TCC attended a private meeting with Hugh Nicol, Factor, Argyll Estates.
* A request was made to Mr Nicol, to attend a public TCC meeting. Mr Nicol agreed to attend a meeting in the future, but was unable to commit to attending a public meeting during 2020.
* Mr Nicol was asked if Argyll Estates have a 2 or 5 year plan for Tiree. Mr Nicol confirmed that no such plan exists.
* Mr Nicol stated that as the majority of the land Argyll Estates owns on Tiree is croft land there is very little they can do to develop the land. It was stated that Tiree is not ran as a commercial enterprise.
* Mr Nicol was asked if Argyll Estates had any land earmarked for young/new entrant crofters. The answer was no.
* It was noted that a few years ago Argyll Estates asked TCC to take a stance on the extraction of sand and gravel. TCC did not proceed with this.
* A member of the public commented that they were concerned that the crofters are taking too much sand and gravel from the beaches – Tiree’s sea defenses.
* A member of the public commented that they think it is wrong of Argyll Estates to be asking TCC to be policing the extraction of sand and gravel from beaches.
* A member of the public commented that they think that some crofters are using the sand and gravel for rebuilding of sheds etc. which isn’t right. Sand and gravel should only be used for the land. Removing too much from the beaches is doing a lot of damage.
* It was noted that Tiree is one of seven sites across Scotland that is being monitored for coastal erosion.

1. **Tiree Flag**

* It was reported that this project is almost complete.
* The final works include getting a parchment painted.

1. **Remote Access to Meetings**

* Due to the lack of time, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

1. **Administration**

* It was reported by AC that is it not currently possible to process transactions online with the TCC bank account. There seems to be an issue with the type of bank account and RBS are looking into a solution for this problem. It was agreed to write a letter to the Scarinish branch regarding this. ***JH TO ACTION.***
* A member of the public commented that they think the full minutes from TCC meetings should be published in An Tirisdeach, instead of the summary report that is currently published as the minutes are more accurate. It was noted that the draft minutes of the meeting are not available until approximately 2-3 weeks after the meeting by the time they have been typed up and reviewed by the Councillors and agreed as the ‘draft minutes’.
* A member of the public responded to the previous comment stating that they disagree, and that a short report that covers the main points is more likely to get read than a full set of minutes.
* It was suggested that a link to the post on TCC website could be included in the An Tirisdeach report, for those who would like to view the full set of draft minutes.

1. **Website**

* It was reported that some content that is to be posted on TCC website can take time to be posted, depending on the nature – e.g. something straightforward that is to be posted for information will appear online quicker that something that could be considered more controversial, as it has to be discussed between all Councillors and agreed before published.

1. **AOCB**

* A member of the public asked if it was possible to view the pre-planning application for the installation of a smart meter mast in Crossapol was on the Argyll & Bute planning applications portal. It was confirmed that this should be available to view online.
* A member of the public requested that BT issues – including bad phone lines, poor internet speeds for areas that cannot get fibre should be raised as part of the Scottish Parliament reception. This was noted.
* A member of the public commented that they think there are not enough telephone boxes on Tiree anymore. A discussion took place regarding this comment.

1. **Date of Next Meeting**

* Wednesday 4th March 2020| 7.30pm | An Talla
* There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9.45pm