Tiree Community Council Minutes Meeting 4th March 2020

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|  Date | Wednesday 4th March 2020 |
|  Time | 7:30PM |
|  Venue | An Talla |
|  Present | Councillors present: John Holliday (JH) - Chair, Phyl Meyer (PM), Ian Gillies (IG), Alison Clark (AC), Gerard McGoogan (GMcG), John Patience (JP)Ward Councillors: Via voice: Councillor Mary-Jean Devon (Cllr MJD) |
| In Attendance | 14 Members of the public (MOP) (including 2 GP’s (re: corona virus), and C MacLennan (re: update on fuel service and garage)Minutes: Jacqui Bennett |

**1. Apologies**

* The Chair welcomed all present. No apologies were presented.

**2. Declarations of interest**

* None

**3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

* IG was added to apologies
* JH contacted Caroline Reardon re: hospital transport: it briefly went awry when staff went on holiday but is currently operating satisfactorily.
* JH has been in contact with Joe Reade, and a larger meeting with more Tiree Transport Forum members present, is planned.
* Online banking: AC reports success in getting a process for setting up online access to make payments. Meeting with the bank on Thursday the 5th March to fill out paperwork. Hopefully, this will pave the way for other community groups to enable them to do internet banking too.
* Linkspan works: Freight transport is meant to be Tues, Thurs, Sat. CalMac will not post service updates. MacLennan report that they only know it is coming after it sets off. Usually arrives around 1pm, so shops will not be restocked until 3pm onwards. Saturday’s boat cancelled, but Tuesday (yesterday’s) boat arrived fine. Loading and unloading of 8 containers went smoothly at both ends. Should the service become erratic, possibly an arrangement could be made to do a Facebook announcement when it does arrive? No action to be taken yet.
* Pier traffic and flow: Cllr MJD reports that council employee: Ian (Paddy) Munn - can ticket any cars left for prolonged time or thought abandoned, and if the ticket is not responded to within 7-14 days (Cllr MJD unsure of exact length of time), then the Council can uplift the car. However, Council probably not willing due to costs. They do have a scrap man that visits the islands three times a year and may uplift, Cllr MJD has offered to investigate this for us.
* Dedicated bike area at the pier: JH enquiring about this and is also asking for traffic plan.
* North/South runway closure: HIAL have postponed a decision on this for three months. Retired fireman from the airport wrote to JH to say that he believes it to be solid concrete with expansion cracks and should not be as expensive to fix. JH to see HIAL in Edinburgh during Land Below The Waves visit.
* Coll airport has now reopened, they have managed to recruit four members of staff.
* Fuel. Catriona MacLennan to speak on this later in this meeting.
* Road users guide: Thanks for contributions and comments, these have been put into the final draft, which is now with Colin Woodcock, with the aim to be printed by Easter.
* Erosion: Road from Mannal to Hynish has been undercut by 1/2m, currently safe, Council planning to repair in time. The road is the only route to Hynish.
MOP states: We are one of seven sites being monitored for coastal erosion.

GMcG Knows this is being done by Dynamic Coast to some of our beaches. He is working through the data and is in discussion with Dynamic Coast to try and arrange a presentation. The dunes at the Maze have seen drastic change.

* MOP asked about common grazings committee meetings and if these are open to the public. Another MOP stated that meetings about these are only open to crofters in that township.
* Mast at the Tiree Business Centre will be 12m tall, roughly the same as the car park lights in the area.
* PM has asked about Council’s Sustainable development plan, and if there are any plans to update it, as actioned at a previous meeting. Sent email and filled in form, awaiting reply. Cllr MJD says that starting next week the local Development plan is being updated, PM to contact Cllr MJD if he has had no word in 7-10 days and she will chase it up.
* Tiree Transport Forum – Minutes on their website changed.

**4. Correspondence**

* Drs Mike and Ali came in to discuss Corona Virus. Most of the information is in general media, it is still technically being considered as “in the containment phase” although it has spread so that is likely to change.

Current advice is to avoid any avoidable transmission. Wash hands thoroughly with soapy water, and don’t touch your face. If you suspect you may be infected, do not come to the surgery. Ring 111, the surgery, or 999 if particularly ill. Self-isolate if you can and think you may be ill. Dr’s will seek advice from health board on a case by case basis. Three tests performed in Argyll & Bute, all three negative.

Advice is changing daily. Dr Mike recommends visiting www.nhsinform.scot for up to date information. The surgery will be putting out posters with advice and posting on Facebay.

Consider implications of social gatherings, school, nursery, GP’s surgery. The virus may take another 2-3m to peak, another 2-3 to dip, and possibly repeat. This takes us through the bulk of the year.

What if a lot of the populace are isolating? We should come up with a plan to ensure they can get supplies. Do Tiree Community Council have a role in this? No power, or money, but we do represent the community.

JP suggests TCC be a conduit for information

Cllr MJD mentions that the Harbour Association in Oban and Mull are making plans to suit and protect the local communities when the cruise ships start arriving. Come summer, Tiree and Coll also get tourists.

Dr Mike points out that people look after each other here, and self-isolators are likely to be looked after. Restated to follow advice from the website, wash hands, avoid transmission.

MOP asks if there’s any contingency plan for if Land Below The Waves has to be cancelled.

IG has spoken to the events manager and will do so closer to the event. If danger of infection is suspected, then a halt will be called. Remembers Tiree avoided foot and mouth by spraying cars in Oban and Tiree and getting visitors to wash their feet/shoes when arriving. Perhaps, as an island, we can put notice out on ferries and airports to get people to wash their hands, etc.?

PM mentions that the Ring’n’Ride is used by a lot, and you tend to touch the handles to get around. Perhaps they could do a little extra disinfecting to avoid spread?

MOP suggests alcohol hand gel in public places (Bank, co-op, Buth a’ Bhaile). Dr Mike and Dr Ali pass on information that shops are sold out, manufacturers are at 1000% production and can’t keep up. Hand gel available in all rooms, and reception, at the surgery.

Dr’s remind that soap and water is better than some hand gel, wash thoroughly for 20 seconds. Surgery will put up signs and a note in An Tirisdeach soon.

JH thanks the GP’s, and all those on the front line for their work and wishes them luck for the future.

* Licensing consultation – Probably not very relevant to us now.
* JH has been in contact with the health board to install a turning circle at the surgery for the blue Ring’n’Ride bus as it cannot currently turn in the space provided. Has met with a contractor and is awaiting a quote. Estate own the land and share the road 50/50 with the surgery. MOP asks if the Estate will split the cost of the turning circle? JH says unknown at the moment. David Ross is working on this project.
* VE day, 75th anniversary. 8th may. Groups of women will climb every peak in Argyll and celebrate.
* Girl Guides group has been in touch – Asked about a flag and leaflets about the island. This has been passed to the Ranger.
* Letter from a crofter sent to JH regarding the discussion about gravel and sand being removed from beaches during the last meeting. JH read the letter just to present the crofter’s case, not to reopen discussion.

MOP mentions that many of our beaches are protected. Special status. Maybe a crofter would like to come to a meeting as a representative and discuss the matter?

* Engaging with communities training – Council. Meeting set in Oban for 27th March. Interested in visiting Tiree to do this but would like numbers first. Please contact PM for further details.
* Community benefits toolkit available from Energy Scotland, again ask PM for information.
* Dementia Consultation: Ward is in Lochgilphead hospital, used to be 8 beds, now 4. People in Argyll and Bute want it saved. JH has talked to the Dr’s about it. The proposal is the close the ward and free the staff to work in the community rather than the hospital. This would mean more staff available. Tiree has not done a referral for some years. The service frequency to Tiree is pretty bad at just one or two visits per year. Increase of that would be good, but at the cost of the ward.

 JH will talk to the GP’s about it.

Cllr MJD mentions that there is only one resource worker, based in Oban, and they cover a huge area.

* Integrated Joint Board for Health and Social Care are looking for community representatives, please see PM if interested.
* Planning application has been put in for a shed at the camp, not thought to present any obvious issue that needed to be raised. No other planning applications since last meeting.
* Argyll and Bute Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen, and Families Association – Wanted us to flag up that they exist and can offer help to those groups. More information can be gotten from PM
* Minutes of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Community Planning Group are available.
* Community Right to Buy information event is happening in Oban in May, organised by Scot Gov. Seems to cover similar ground to the event held on Tiree on this subject recently.
* By-elections are taking place for the Community Councils, starting 31st March 2020. Co-opted councillors can only serve two years, and cannot be immediately re-co-opted, which would mean they will not be able to serve until the next election unless they go for election now. They can put themselves for election, and others who are interested in being part of TCC are welcome to apply. Information will be coming via post. TCC currently has four vacancies.
* Cllr MJD checks if there is any news on Scarinish loos. IG reports silence from his contact, Cllr MJD says she will chase this. Has to leave to pursue other business.

**Finalising minutes from last meeting (4th Feb 2020)**

* Item 19 - “(including AGM) is at the end of the minutes. There was to be an AGM shortly after forming TCC, but TCC did not think it was needed, have since found it was, and have contacted the council about how to rectify this. In order to make finances and business line up and easier, the council have granted dispensation to effectively combine two AGMs in June (i.e. pass two years of accounts at once) to rectify this issue. This will include signing off on the 2018-2019 accounts and the 2019-2020 accounts.
**Alterations accepted, and minutes proposed by Phyl Meyer, seconded by Alison Clark**

**Report by Catriona MacLennan on the wind up of MacLennan Motors and the maintenance of fuel supplies for the island.**

* The supplies barge from Oban had 8 containers yesterday and unloaded smoothly. MacLennan only know it’s heading to Tiree after it’s set sail. It’s loaded the night before, between 4 and 6pm, and should arrive around 1pm.
* MacLennan Motors fuel tanks have enough diesel and unleaded for the next few weeks.
* Catriona and Angus announced their retirement 1yr ago, they had no response to selling the whole business lot.
* Approached Tiree Trust about fuel supply to the island. The (now too small) tanks were put in last time the linkspan was changed, approx. 1992. The Trust have done a study on providing fuel.
* Stewart MacLennan has taken on the haulage part of the business and taken the main hub to Oban. It’s well equipped and should work well. Large post and freight are now being sorted and stored in the old crofters building, shared with MacColl, and is being sent out as speedily as usual.
* This left the garage and the office building still available.
* Tiree Sea Tours have been in negotiation. They are leasing the office and the land behind it for their use.
* An island mechanic has offered to take on the accredited garage and will do so from Mid-April.
* Fuel – The Trust are still working and won’t know much until August. MacLennan site will provide until then. Tiree Sea Tours have agreed to take on the pumps as custodians. MacLennan have found getting the tankers stressful, the fuel does not make a huge profit. There is a meeting planned with MacLennan, Sea Tours, and the Trust, to find a way forward.
* Two councillors mention that possibly/surely fuel supply is more a community issue that a business venture?
* JH thanks Catriona MacLennan for her time and efforts to keep the fuel supply going.
* PM (who is on the working group for the Fuel Project at the Trust) assures everyone that the Trust are very much aware of the importance of this, there’s no lack of willingness to help, they have a positive intention to solve it, just that there may be legal wrinkles to work through, etc.

**6. Land Below The Waves March 18th**

* IG gives a breakdown of this upcoming parliamentary event for Tiree:
* Two parts to the day, evening public reception to raise awareness of Tiree, and meetings during the day with various parties.
* IG has set this up to discuss with senior position people about Tiree and its issues. He notes that nothing happens until you get the senior Ministers, politicians, and officials, involved. Hopefully people will come away with a better awareness of Tiree and some solutions for us.
* 9:30 Scotland Local Authority Vice Chair for the boundaries commission. Argue for Tiree and Coll to have a specific councillor to represent them.
* 11:00 Michael Russell
* 12:50 10 min with First Minister. IG has a few points, e.g. Tiree sits in a local authority with some islands, unlike other island communities who are “Island Authorities” - means we have no direct route to parliament or the bonus funding places like the other islands get.
* Half an hour with Jeanne Freeman, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport
* One hour with Mairi Gougeon MSP, Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment.
* In the evening there are 6 confirmed MSPs and 141 people turning up to mingle and discuss the island’s issues.
* Arranging the whole thing has been quite fraught for IG, appreciation from those present expressed.
* MOP (Dot Sim) has offered to make an item of jewelry to give to the first minister, IG to check if this is permitted/within protocol, but much appreciation for this offer was expressed.

**7. Constitutional position of the Tiree Transport Forum**

* To what extent does TCC deal with transport matters?
* Should we leave more to the Forum?
* AC says they are experts, TCC have a lot on our plate already, and we have a representative on TTF. Quite good to pass things on to them. They would still report back to TCC.
* IG notes a lot of crossover between the two, including three topics now. The advantage is it is a semi-autonomous body working on it and coming back. TTF has been effective and well done all involved.
* TTF meets twice a year
* MOP has looked over the constitution, notes that it is “wide” and that if a group wanted to, they could take it over. The constitution has no election process, no voting procedure, the constitution needs firming up.
* TTF came into existence before the current TCC.
* According to the constitution, in the absence of a chair, it should be a member of TCC.
* AC asks who is responsible to get the new constitution formulated?
* PM points out that if it has an official voice (it okays the ferry timetables, among other things, so this is thought official) if really should be tightened up as it should not be speaking on behalf of TCC/the Community without being subject to accountability, etc.
* MOP notes that fundamentally, it is worked really well and is possibly the best group on the island, they just fear for its future.

**8. Tiree planning applications to be put in An Tirisdeach**

* Initial suggestion is that, if they are thought relevant, to put them in.
* AC and PM agree that it is not for TCC to judge relevance, and who will pay for it?
* IG asks if AnT have been consulted, and will they do it? JH to check
* PM states that it’s part of TCC’s duty to ensure the community is aware of, and consulted on, planning matters – which would seem to support us posting them like this.
* IG asks if they can just be put on the TCC website?
* MOP says they just copy and pasted from the council’s website, it doesn’t imply any comment on them.
* MOP and JB explain that current system is to inform people local to the build that permission has been sought, and they have 4 weeks to dispute by post or phone.
* PM made it clear that it would be entirely appropriate for TCC to take a position on a planning application if it is thought to be needed. E.g. if an application ran counter to agreed plans/restrictions, etc.

**9. Phone box project**

* JP says that funding has come through, this will enable the “black box” and audio for the Balephuil box to go ahead. Susan MacDonald and Janet Bowler are liaising with Balephuil residents over the choice of material for the audio.
* The audio will have four push button options to hear recorded audio. This audio can be changed easily. An Iodhlann have a nice store of audio to choose from.
* Eventually there will be 10 boxes with 4 options each
* Thanks to TEAR (Tiree Environmental Action and Recycling) for the funds.
* Carcassing has arrived, paint colours for Balephuil are sorted, Scarinish still to decide.
* Kate McLeod is to organise a local tea party for the Scarinish committee to choose and finalise their paint.
* Neil MacDonald will be back soon, hoping to have Balephuil up and running by Summer
* David Vale has offered to help with Scarinish, weather permitting.
* Two to be done by the end of the year, hopefully.
* Once Balephuil is complete, it will be used as an example to secure more funding for the other eight.
* JP wished it to be made clear that he is not responsible for colour choices!
* MOP mentions that the door on the only functional phone box is blocked by grass, they have written to BT and had no response. They will write to London office. Could TCC not contact BT about this? The light is not working, either.
* Discussion is had about why the one box was chosen, and who by. Is one box sufficient should an emergency happen?
* JH thinks there may be options for outbound only phones can be installed.
* GMcG is speaking to BT and EE about infrastructure and broadband, will mention the broken boxes. Also notes that SSE now have 5x VHF radios in case of power loss, or emergency.
* MOP starts a discussion about who legally owns these ten phone boxes? JP says they were purchased for £1 each, and has paperwork somewhere.
* JH halts the discussion and offers to find proof that title of the boxes is transferred and that BT received payment of the £10 for the boxes.
* MOP requests this be presented at the next meeting.

**10. Toilet project**

* Nothing new, awaiting contact.

**11. Administration**

* Our new Administrator has now been appointed and is settling in – the TCC welcomed Jacqui Bennet to the role. We are still working on defining the task list involved.
* GMcG is working on an action point tracker for the TCC so we are less likely to lose track of things.

**12. AOCB**

* MOP compliments the new post office in Crossapol, very useful. Mentions issue with unwanted post, JH will look into this.
* MOP has letter from Mr Nicol, Argyll estates Factor, dated January, saying he will be at the next meeting. Why is Mr Nicol not present?
* PM explained that is turned out Mr Nichol could not attend that meeting due to scheduling issues, there was a meeting with TCC members, however, and this was reported on at the last meeting (4th Feb 2020). He hopes to attend a future meeting but is quite booked. However, he does visit the island regularly and is willing to meet in person, contact him to book this, or to deal with queries via phone or e-mail.

**Next meeting on Weds 1st April 2020, 19:30**

**Meeting ends 21:35**