**MINUTES OF EMERGENCY**

**MEETING OF TIREE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**18 March 2020 1500**

**By Teleconference (Zoom)**

**1. Present**: Dr John Holliday (chair); Gerard McGoogan; Phyl Meyer; Ian Gillies; John Patience

**2. Purpose of meeting**: to face the challenge to the Tiree community posed by Covid-19. The Community Council will have an important role in coordinating relief and maintaining services. The doctors have advised a period of high intensity social distancing. This means that those over 70, and those with illnesses like diabetes that mean that they are recommended to get a flu vaccination, should not meet anyone outside the household and should avoid public spaces like the shop.

**3. Meetings**: we decided that the community council would continue to meet using videoconferencing for the foreseeable future. This is not ideal, but we have so much to do and this is the only alternative at the moment. The AGM in May is likely to be put off. JH had been in contact with Melissa, A&B Local Governance Officer for advice, and this is awaited. We decided to set up a WhatsApp group for TCC councillors. **GMcG to set up.**

**4. Other business**: almost all other business is suspended. GMcG said he was pursuing some telecom matters.

**5. TAIC**: TCC had helped to set up TAIC (Tiree Action in the Community) as an emergency umbrella group of bodies on Tiree that will work together to provide logistical support and contact for those who are staying at home.

**6. Shop**: JH had been into the Coop to advise on social distancing. Andy, the manager, had subsequently posted a message about this on Facebook.

**7. Information management**: the doctor was now doing a daily summary. The Trust was creating a list of telephone numbers to receive this as a text. We discussed platforms and decided that the medical 'bulletin' should stand alone as an authoritative message. We will work on this over the next few days.

**8. Planes**: these have been disrupted recently with rotations dropped or combined as passenger numbers dwindle and as staff members are ill.

**9. Ferries**: there will probably be a reduction in sailings, possibly keeping to the winter timetable, possibly a freight only service, due to a reduction in staff numbers.

**10. Ambulance evacuation**: we have been told that it is not possible to transfer patients with suspected Covid-19 off the island. JH has written to Pauline Howie, the Chief Executive of the Scottish Ambulance Service. **JH has now heard that it will now be possible to transfer these patients from Tiree to Glasgow in a fixed wing plane.**

**11. Visitors**: we discussed whether TCC should mount a campaign to reduce the number of visitors to Tiree this Easter. This would reduce the pressure on the medical service. Other communities have adopted this approach. We decided against this at the moment, although the matter might be taken out of our hands soon if non-essential travel was banned soon.

Dr John Holliday 19 March 2020