**MINUTES**

**TIREE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**3 April 2020 11 am**

**By Zoom**

**1. Present**: Dr John Holliday (chair); Phyl Myer; Alison Clark; Ian Gillies; Gerard McGoogan; and John Patience

**2. Apologies**: none

**3. Basis of this meeting**: we acknowledged that this meeting was, in effect, an interim business meeting, although it was not open to the public.

**4. Correspondence:**

* We had written to the head teacher twice about school closure. On the first occasion, we had asked him not to re-open the school after deep cleaning following a suspected case among the pupils. This call had not been accepted. We had also written to ask that the school should not re-open to look after the children of key workers or for free school meals. This request also failed to result in a change in policy
* We had been asked to make a public comment to discourage people coming to Tiree from the mainland as the corona virus epidemic developed. We had published a statement, along with numerous other rural councils. We had had some feedback from the public that we should have been firmer, but we felt, in retrospect, that our balance had been about right
* We had had some further correspondence from Joe Reade on Mull about the next generation of ferries between Mull, Coll and Tiree. Further discussion of this would probably have to wait until the corona crisis is over
* The by-election this month had been postponed
* We had asked CMAL about traffic management at the pier. They have now said that this was a CalMac matter. AC said there had been some constructive discussions between businesses at the pier. Again this was a subject we would return to in the future
* We had written to Michael Russell about Operation Joint Warrior 2020 in the Minch. In past years, this has affected Tiree Broadband. Our request for this not to happen this year has been passed to the Ministry of Defence in London, but members still reported some recent outage
* We had been asked about 'Lessons Learned' regarding the linkspan replacement. Members would give the chair their thoughts

**5. Treasurer's report**: JH and AC had filled in the final forms to allow internet banking, but this had again been unsuccessful. Craig Smith is looking into it. We had had our annual funding from Argyll and Bute Council before our AGM due to the coronavirus emergency. There was still a shortfall in the funds for the flag project, but JH would look into this and AC would pay the Lord Lyon.

**6. Coronavirus**: TCC had played a leading part in setting up the voluntary response unit TAIC. This was functioning well. We talked about a centralised news portal. A free online version of An Tirisdeach was suggested by IG, and **he would look into this**. There was a general feeling that people on the island would like a regular update on the amount of suspected disease in the community. **JH would feed that back to the doctors.** We discussed setting up a 'Goodwill Fund' for cases of hardship, but decided that this was too difficult a project.

**7. Air transport**: we are down to five flights a week, and even these are barely used. Loganair had been left very exposed by its decision to buy a number of new rotes just before the coronavirus crisis**. IG would write to Jonathan Hinckles, asking if TCC could support the airline's situation.**

**8. Ferry transport**: we were down to a 'Winter Minus' timetable of three boats a week, but this seemed to be sufficient.

**9. Public meeting**: we discussed the possibility of conducting a public meeting using videoconferencing. We thought this was possible, using the more advanced features of Zoom, although it would just have to be audio if there were too many participants. **We would try this for the next meeting**. We agreed to take out a Zoom subscription of £12 a month. **PM and AC would organise**.

**10. AOCB**: IG described a typical supermarket on the mainland at the moment. **JH would contact Andy at the Coop to ask about Perspex screens at the till and wipes for the trolley handles.**

The meeting finished at 1215

Dr John Holliday 4 April 2020