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| **Date** | 14th October 2020 |
| **Time** | 1900hrs |
| **Venue** | Zoom Video Conference |
| **Present** | **Councillors Present: John Holliday, Phyl Meyer, Alison Clark and Gerard McGoogan.**  **Guests: Jamie MacGregor (Oban South and the Isles ward Councillor)**  **Minute Taker:** Louise Reid  **Public – 32 devices connected to the call including the above** |

1. **Welcome and apologies.**

* The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting no apologies were received. It was noted that the meeting has been recorded for minute taking purposes. **PM** gave a brief overview of the Zoom Meeting Protocol.

1. **Conflict of Interest**

* **None**

1. **Previous Minutes**

* The previous minutes are now available on the Community Council Website.
* **JL** agreed to discuss the WW2 debris found on Crossapol Beach with Environmental Health, it was noted that there has been no feedback as yet.
* **JH** has started discussions with TCDT regarding key issues such as population decline, Gaelic language etc.
* An issue was previously raised regarding grass cutting at the old graveyards of Sorobaidh and Kirkapol. **JL** had previously agreed to investigate this. It is thought that the grass cutting will take place at the end of the season.
* It was requested that **TCC** investigate a cyclist’s safe area at the pier, this has been passed on to the Tiree Transport Forum to take forward.
* It was noted that the Scarinish Post Office is open from 9am-12pm and the sorting office is closed to the public.
* Cllr Jamie Macgregor was welcomed to the meeting. It was noted that there is a similar issue on Coll with WW2 debris being exposed.
* There being no other matters arising, the minutes of the previous meeting, including the above alteration, were approved. Proposed by ***PM*** and seconded by ***AC***.

1. **Correspondence**

* Correspondence has been received regarding the water supply on Tiree. A home owner has been informed that they will be unable to proceed with their plans to build a new house due to a lack of capacity on the mains water supply. There are three properties in total with the same issue. **JH** has written to Scottish Water and this was confirmed as a mistake. The property owners have been contacted to confirm that the water supply is adequate at the moment.
* It was noted that there was an island wide water outage last week. TCC have requested that a representative from Scottish Water attend the next meeting to discuss plans to upgrade the network and make it more resilient.
* A letter has been received from the Argyll Estates Factor, Hugh Nicol, **HN** has noted he will be happy to attend some of the TCC meetings via Zoom in the future to help clarify some issues, updates noted from correspondence with Argyll Estates is as follows:
* Beaches on Tiree are not classed as Common Grazing, they belong to the Estate.
* The proposed land for sale in Milton will be used for a joint project between the Crofters and Argyll Estates, meaning the income will be split.
* **JH** has been copied into correspondence between a constituent and the Argyll and Bute Governance Officer (Melissa Stewart) regarding the current set up of Community Council meetings, it was noted that the current arrangement is within the guidelines set by Argyll and Bute Council. It was noted that national consultation is currently ongoing for a new set of guidelines for Community Councils taking part in online meetings.
* A letter has been received from the Deputy First Minister John Swinney regarding support for Gaelic language. **PM** attending a meeting, the main points are as follows:
* This meeting was for consultation purposes, Rhoda Meek (**RM)** was also in attendance.
* It was noted that **RM** is currently working with Tiree Community Development Trust to develop a Gaelic Development Strategy for the Island.
* The recent findings from the ‘Use of Gaelic at home’ Survey were also discussed. Concerns were raised as to the future of Gaelic as a viable community language.
* It is unclear what action will come from the meeting, but it is promising that the Deputy First Minister is taking an interest in the issue.
* A second letter has been received regarding gravel extraction from a beach on the West end of the island. **JH** has been to the area to investigate. It was noted that Tiree Community Council cannot do anything directly in relation to this issue, but keen to play a role as “honest broker” in this situation and are engaging with Argyll Estates, the Crofters and SNH to develop a way forward on this issue. It is hoped that the Argyll Estates Factor will be able to provide an update at the next meeting.
* A letter has been received regarding car parking at Tiree High School, there have been concerns raised regarding the changes to parking at the School, this change has resulted in no parking availability for the library. This is not an issue at the moment as the library is closed, however may become an issue when it reopens in the future. Tiree High School have noted that the situation is temporary and will be addressed over the October Holidays. Notice will be given to the community once works have been completed. It was noted that further concerns have been raised regarding parking arrangements as there is currently a perceived danger for the pupils.
* Tiree Wave Classic has now been postponed until spring 2021.
* Correspondence has been received regarding consultation on Short Term Lets. This is a follow up consultation from the original questionnaire in April, whereby it was decided a new policy will be put into place which will see self-catering properties requiring a licence from Argyll and Bute Council. Tiree Community Council have been asked to make comment on the implementation of this policy by 16th October. It was noted that there is no time for consultation with the community, meaning TCC will not be in a position to submit a complete, balanced view on the island’s behalf. It was noted that the consultation can be completed on an individual basis. TCC encourages the community to do so. Coll Community Council have expressed some concerns as this could affect the hostel and other properties on the island.
* A consultation has also been received regarding the implementation of the Islands Community Impact Assessments; this is due in three weeks.
* A letter has been received from Argyll and Bute Council regarding possible cuts. TCC have been asked to comment on which services could be cut in order to save costs. TCC have not taken part in the survey in the past with the view that no services should be cut. It was noted that the survey sets out a list of Council obligations and requires them to be marked in order of priority.  It was suggested that TCC should get involved in order to show interest in the process. It was agreed to look further at the consultation and gauge its relevance to the island before proceeding to engage appropriately. ***AC/GMG to action.*** **JMG** noted his agreement with the decision. It was further noted that this consultation is open to the public meaning individuals can also get involved. It was agreed to post the link to the consultation online. ***PM to action.***
* It was noted that EE should be on island during October to make changes to the mast set up which will improve service. It is thought that whilst the mast is being worked on disruption should be kept to a minimum, but EE should announce any planned down time. Tiree Broadband are currently working with BT Openreach to improve the internet backhaul. BT Openreach also have an agreement pending with Scottish Government, it is hoped that this will move forward before the end of the year.
* Correspondence has been received regarding the Remembrance service in November, it was noted that it is hoped that this will go ahead on Saturday 7th November 1400hrs. With maximum 20 attendees, however people can observe from a distance. It was suggested that this could live streamed to those who cannot attend. It was agreed to investigate this. ***PM to action.***
* The Police Scotland report has been received, there have been 10 incidents, it was noted that there has been a serious sheep worrying incident which resulted in an animal having to be put down (euthanised). Police Scotland are reminding dog owners to be extremely careful around livestock and keep their pets on a lead at all times.

1. **By - election**

* **PM** presented a sample ballot paper and described the process for completion. Each voter can cast four votes or less. Preferences do not need to be made in numerical order; this is a tick box ballot. Once completed the form should be placed in envelope A, and the declaration and envelope A should be placed in envelope B to be posted. The instructions are also in the mailing pack. It was noted that due to Covid-19 there will be no polling station set up meaning all votes must be received by mail prior to the 5th of November, when they will be counted.
* Candidates were invited to record a one-minute statement during the election period. Pre-Recorded statements were then played from Iona Campbell, Jacqui Bennet, John Patience and Louise Reid. Written statements from Iona Larg and Stewart Carr (who declined the opportunity to submit a recording) were included in the mailing packs along with the other candidates written statements.  These are also available on Argyll and Bute Council Website, and Tiree Community Council Facebook Page.
* Best wishes were given to all the candidates.

1. **Transport**

* **JH** chaired the Tiree Transport Forum (TTF) Meeting on a temporary basis, it was noted that there are two spaces on the TTF for Community Council Representatives. **PM** and **GMG** agreed to represent Tiree Community Council at the TFF for the time being.
* It was suggested that when new councillors are elected that they be given the opportunity to be involved. This was agreed by all present.
* **GMG** also attended the Tiree Transport Forum Meeting, the main points are as follows:
* **GMG** gave a brief overview of the Transport Forum, explaining the set up and the reasons for such a group. It was noted that the Terms of Reference are in the process of being updated. The draft Terms of Reference are available for comment on the Community Council website. After the consultation period is over, the draft Terms of Reference will be presented to the TTF for final approval. TTF will continue to run as an independent group with representation from Hauliers, CalMac and Loganair. The Community Council will attend to represent the views of the island residents.
* **Air Transport**
* TTF have scheduled the next meeting for December
* Winter Timetables begin Monday 19th October.
* Loganair have announced the winter timetable for Tiree-Glasgow Flights. Due to reduced demand, Loganair in consultation with Transport Scotland and little engagement with Tiree have proposed that afternoon travel will only be available on a Monday or Friday.
* Loganair have also announced that the SAAB aircraft are to be phased out, and the replacement aircraft are too heavy to land on Tiree’s runways, meaning that only the Twin Otter will be able to fulfil the route. Loganair currently operates two Twin Otter aircraft. Concerns were raised as to the resilience of this arrangement, as there are frequently issues with the Twin Otters. In the past the SAAB has been able to cover the route, however this will not be possible going forward.
* Tiree Community council are going to write to Transport Scotland to find a solution to this potential issue.
* The North/South Runway at Tiree Airport will be closed due to the repair costs being too high, £5.5m. In 2019 the use of the runway meant resulted three successful flights that would have been cancelled had the runway not been used.
* Tiree Community Council have received various correspondence regarding delays in the Post. **PM** wrote to Royal Mail regarding the issue, Royal Mail are currently looking at options to increase capacity to Tiree, including using the ferry more for the transport of Parcels and securing additional capacity on the plane, which would be the preferred option. The current weight limit for mail on the plane is 80kg. This weight limit is standard even when the plane is not full of passengers. It was noted that the papers do not always come to the island. **PM to investigate this.**
* International flights to Tiree are required to fill out additional paperwork during Covid-19 to specify who is on board etc. If the flight is arriving from countries that require an isolation period, on arrival the passengers have to fill in further forms. There has been an issue recently in which the Border Force did not receive paperwork completed by the arriving flight, however the correct documents were completed before the passengers departure from the airport.
* After January 2021 new flight procedures will come into place for international flights to Tiree.
* **JMG** agreed to lobby for additional flights to the central belt.
* A member of the public expressed concern regarding the retiral of the SAAB aircraft as it has been used as a backup flight in the past when the Twin Otter has been grounded due to weather/technical difficulties. It was noted that without the SAAB passengers could be stuck in Glasgow/Tiree for a number of days.
* It was agreed to write to Transport Scotland and request more capacity. It was noted that this doesn’t necessarily need to be a Twin Otter but any aircraft capable of landing at Tiree Airport. ***TCC to action.***
* It was suggested that the Twin Otter cannot land using electronic landing software on Tiree, but only by sight. It was suggested that something could perhaps be done to upgrade the equipment in the Tower to make landings possible in poor visibility, therefore improving the reliability of the current fleet on the Tiree route. It was further then noted that this measure has been considered in the past but was ruled out due to expense.
* It was noted that the lighting is being improved on one of the remaining runways meaning landing in poor visibility should become more reliable.
* **Ferry Transport**
* The winter timetable has been published, there will now be sailings on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.
* Concerns have been raised regarding temporary replacement vessel allocation during the upcoming dry dock season. The Western Isles and Coll Community Council have issues. It was noted that Tiree is due to have the Lord of the Isles, which will mean a reduction in freight capacity for a short time. It was noted that during this period Tiree will have a double sailing on a Saturday which will hopefully ease some of these issues.
* It was agreed to get in touch with The Tiree Transport Forum, with a suggestion that they contact CalMac and the CalMac Communities board to reinforce the importance that the Lord of the Isles remains on the Oban/Coll Tiree route for the duration of the Clansman’s drydock visit. It was noted that during this time the island will also see the impact of the reduction of flights to the island. ***TCC to action.***
* A member of the public confirmed that the reason for the double Saturday sailing during the drydock period is to compensate for the freight differential. It was suggested that when islands are approaching issues with CalMac, the whole network should be taken into consideration when taking community views forward. It was also noted that the winter timetable for Tiree is adequate in line with the traffic figures from previous years.
* It was noted that there could be an issue whereby Tiree could have the Lord of the Isles sooner than scheduled due to the Western Isles lobbying for the Clansman to be brought up North after the Hebrides goes to drydock.
* It is thought that social distancing on ferries will remain in place into next Summer. A member of the public and Mull ferry users group have asked CalMac if there will be any modifications made to vessels during drydock visits to improve the Covid Capacity of the ships. As yet there has been no response. It was suggested that Tiree Community Council also investigate this as the Clansman could have better capacity with social distancing in place if it was better organised. It was agreed to take this forward. ***TCC to action.***

1. **Boundaries Commission**

* There is a Boundary Commission in Local Government enquiry into Argyll and Bute currently taking place. It was noted that there has been some initial ideas on how the current wards could be changed.
* It was previously noted by **JL** that initial thoughts were to separate the Islands from Oban, and have one ward which would include Tiree, Coll, Mull and Iona, it is unsure if Colonsay are included in this. The new islands ward would be a two-member ward, meaning two councillors would represent the four islands.
* The Boundaries Commission are going to consult with the Community Council in November. TCC encourage members of the public to submit their thoughts on the matter so a representative view can be made.
* **JMG** suggested that it is not imperative that the ward councillors live on the islands, communities can be represented from the mainland. It was noted that many of the ward meetings are taking place online at the moment, and this is working well.
* It was noted that the last change to the ward arrangements was in 2007 when multi member wards were introduced. This was introduced to give constituents more options when voting. It was suggested that if Argyll and Bute had more Councillors the issue would not be so prominent.

1. **Public consultation**

* A member of the public raised a concern regarding the short-term holiday lets consultation and asked the following question.

‘Given the known economic impact of second homes on the island does the community council not feel that it would be appropriate to respond requesting an extension to the consultation to allow the community to be fully consulted.  I understand that other government consultations have been extended in the past. I feel that by not offering any response it may show an indifference to a very important issue for the island.’

* It was noted that the change to short term lets has already been agreed, the ongoing consultation is to ascertain how the licencing will be implemented.
* **PM** explained what the policy would mean for Short Term Let operators on Tiree. The main points are as follows:
* If you operate a short term let either from your own property or as a second property which is available for let more than an agreed number of days in the year, operators will require a licence.
* Policies will be agreed by the Local Authority for each area and a decision will be made as to how many licences will be granted in that area and how long the licence would be valid for.
* It was noted that the change in policy is intended to solve ongoing issues with planning permissions for holiday lets.
* The cost of the licence is currently unconfirmed.
* It was agreed that the Community Council will request an extension for comments on this consultation and noted that people can respond to the consultation on an individual basis.
* A member of the public questioned if the licencing fee could come back to the community in some way. It is thought that the money would go to the Local Authority, but a policy could be agreed whereby some funds could come back onto the island. It was also commented that this could have a negative impact on the building industry as it could be expensive. It was also commented that it could bring more work for local trades people if there is a quality standard that must be met. A further comment was made that this could possibly mean more homes available homes for full time residents.
* It was noted that no changes will happen immediately, holiday homeowners will have time to apply for a licence etc before anything is enforced. The new policy will allow for local authorities to monitor the ratio of holiday homes to permanent residents in a location.
* It was agreed to respond to the consultation request that more time be given for its completion, and that a request for “hypothecation” be made (i.e. that any net proceeds raised on Tiree should come back to Tiree). ***TCC to action.***
* It was suggested that if the consultation is extended then the Community Council may collect more responses from the community and take a representative view.

1. **AOCB**

* Thanks were given to everyone in attendance.
* TCC are looking for feedback on how the meetings are being received, are they being conducted well etc.

***There being no other business the meeting was closed; the date of the next meeting is 11th November.***

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| **ACTION** | **BY WHOM** | **BY WHEN** |
| Investigate relevance of A&BC cost saving consultation. | **GMG/AC** | **11th Nov** |
| Investigate the possibility of live streaming the Memorial Service | **PM** | **7th Nov** |
| Write to TFF suggesting they request additional capacity to ensure a consistent service after the retiral of the SAAB aircraft. | **TCC** | **ASAP** |
| Write to CalMac for assurance that the drydock ferry replacement schedule will be adhered to. | **TCC** | **ASAP** |
| Write to CalMac and request that thought be given to future proofing the vessels whilst in CalMac to ensure maximum capacity whilst adhering to social distancing. | **TCC** | **ASAP** |
| Respond to holiday let consultation and request an extension on the consultation period and hypothecation should the scheme be more than cost neutral. | **TCC** | **11th Nov** |