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| **Date** | November 2020 |
| **Time** | 1900hrs |
| **Venue** | Zoom Video Conference |
| **Present** | **Councillors Present: John Holliday, Phyl Meyer, Alison Clark and Gerard McGoogan, Louise Reid, Iona Campbell, Stewart Carr.**  **Guests: Mary Jean Devon (Argyll and Bute Councillor)**  **Minute Taker:** Louise Reid  **Public – 29 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. **JH** welcomed new councillors, **Iona Campbell (IC), Stewart Carr (SC)** and **Louise Reid (LR)** thanks were given to all who put themselves forward for election and to the community for taking part in the voting process.

1. **Conflict of Interest**

* **SC** and **PM** declared a conflict of interest under **Item 7** of the Agenda, **Covid-19 tier 2 allocation for Tiree as part of Argyll + Bute Council area.**

1. **Previous Minutes**

* The previous minutes are now available on the Community Council Website.
* **PM** has responded to the consultation on Holiday Lets, noting that the given window for consultation was not long enough to ascertain a community view, and that any additional finances raised from the scheme be allocated back to Tiree.
* It was noted that the act of remembrance was cancelled due to current Covid guidelines, however various groups and services have placed wreathes around the memorial site.
* Tiree Community Council have been in correspondence with Royal Mail regarding the weight allowance of mail on flights from Glasgow. An updated contract has been agreed with Loganair meaning there is now additional mail capacity on the flights.
* It was previously agreed to write to Transport Scotland with concerns that the retiral of the SAAB aircraft will cause service reliability issues. It was agreed to place this on the website. ***PM to action.***
* Tiree Community Council have written to CalMac regarding potential upgrade works to the Clansman to ease capacity issues whilst adhering to Covid guidelines during the vessels Dry Dock visit.
* It was further agreed to keep a watching brief over the Dry Dock scheduled for the Lord of The Isles.
* **GMG** has responded to the Argyll and Bute survey on service cuts. It was clarified that the Tiree equivalent of removing animals from public spaces includes such things as removing cetaceans, seals etc from the beaches.
* There being no other matters arising, the minutes of the previous meeting, including the above alteration, were approved. Proposed by ***GMG*** and seconded by ***PM.***

1. **Correspondence**

* It was noted that some correspondence received since the last meeting have been placed on the website or on social media. These items include advice to EU citizens living in the area without UK citizenship regarding upcoming Brexit laws and Oban, Lorn and the Isles Community Planning Group meeting minutes.
* Correspondence is ongoing with Tiree Community Development Trust, a joint meeting is scheduled to take place on the 25th November. The agenda is still in draft form but will be published after it is agreed.
* Federico Sìndico has passed on some insights from Malta, Trinidad and Tobago regarding how these Caribbean islands are coping during the Covid-1 outbreak. It was agreed to add the link to the website. ***PM to action.***
* Scott Goodwill (CalMac) has been in touch regarding a Harbours User Group meeting on the 23rd November, 2pm. One of the items on the agenda is the proposal to lay a wave monitoring buoy off Gott Pier, the purpose of which is to collect data to assist Skippers in difficult berthing circumstances.
* The annual Police Scotland survey has been received and circulated.
* An email has been received from SSEN regarding the donation of 5 VHF radios to Tiree for emergency use, these would be used in times where communications were down etc.
* Correspondence has been received regarding recycling on the island. It is unclear at present what the current recycling arrangement is, and how the general waste is separated from the recycled waste. During Lockdown, there was no recycling available, however service has resumed as normal. It was noted that commercial waste is not separated, but it is unsure if there is an alternative available with the current resources. It was agreed to investigate this with the local council team. ***JH to action.***

1. **Tiree Water Supply: Challenges and Solutions**

* Due to the internet outage and availability of Scottish Water representatives, it was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.

1. **Covid-19 tier two allocation for Tiree as part of Argyll and Bute Council Area**

* Tiree is currently in Tier Two allocation for Corona Virus restrictions along with Argyll and Bute. It has been suggested that Tiree Community Council make representation to Scottish Government that Tiree be separated from Argyll and Bute in this instance and be dropped from a tier two area to a tier one. A number of comments were received as follows:
* Whilst locally this would allow for an easing of restrictions, it may make it even more difficult for those from a higher tiered area to get to the island, possibly making Tiree even more isolated.
* The tier two rating given by the Scottish Government is based on findings in different council areas and the capacity of the health care services in these places, Argyll and Bute Council is somewhat unique in that there are both mainland and island communities within the boundaries.
* It should be possible to make more granular decisions for places like Tiree. It is thought that the tier two decision has been partially made due to the fact that some areas must cross into other tiers for services such as hospital treatment etc. However, there is a lot to consider when looking at the practicalities of a tier one allocation.
* There has been reference made by the Scottish Government that Argyll and Bute Council may move into tier one going forward. It was also noted that tier one in the Island Council areas is different from tier one in Highland and Moray Council areas, whereby in Highland and Moray, visiting households whilst in tier one is not recommended. It is unsure where Tiree would fall if Argyll and Bute were moved to tier one. Health care capacity is also an issue that Tiree may face if an outbreak were to occur.
* It was noted that island residents also travel to Oban or Glasgow for medical treatment. There are precautions in place for such travel.
* **MJD** noted that Mull is also divided on the matter, it was also noted that the figures for Argyll and Bute are declining.
* Tiree Community Council have been copied into emails with Argyll and Bute council sent by a member of the public, it was suggested by the member of the public that people make use of the Covid dashboard, which is updated daily, it was further suggested that by looking at this data Tiree Community Council could come to a conclusion as to the best way forward. It was also propounded that this situation uncovers weaknesses in the islands bill whereby the islands are not seeing any exception from Argyll and Bute Council over this matter.
* It’s difficult on Tiree, in tier two you are allowed to meet in a café, but there are very little in the way of indoor spaces to meet with others, meaning it can be very isolating.
* Covid guidelines are shared world-wide, and there are many exceptions to these rules, it is the responsibility of the individual to follow the guidelines and adopt a safe approach to the situation.
* A member of the public suggested that that Tiree should remain in tier two, it is thought that there are a number of people not abiding by the current guidelines and that there are too many workers and residents back and forth from the island.
* Tiree is extremely vulnerable as a small community, disease can spread very quickly and the health services on the island are limited. Restrictions should be accepted for the benefit of community safety.
* It was agreed to accept the tier allocations as given by the Scottish Government going forward.
* It was noted that travel from tier three and four will become illegal in the next few days. Those attempting to travel can be stopped by the police. It is thought that this may be difficult to monitor. CalMac have not been asked to assist with this at present.
* It was noted that there are some exceptions for traveling between the tiers, for example essential workers can cross the boundaries.
* It was suggested that in the past it was not effective asking CalMac to police this, it is very difficult and unpleasant for the staff to manage. It would be good for the island if it was possible, but it is a very big ask of CalMac to try and implement this.
* **MJD** noted that there are a number of University students from the islands who are currently living in tier three and four areas, and although they are permitted to come home for Christmas, there are some logistical difficulties in implementing this. The view on Mull is very mixed, with some people in need of the economic boost that tourism brings and those who feel travel should not be permitted to maintain the safety of the islanders.

1. **Transport Update**

* **GMG** gave a brief transport update.
* It was noted that some recent flights have been cancelled due to no booked passengers.
* Thanks were given to CalMac for their recent flexibility during the cattle sale.
* The issues with the consistency of newspaper deliveries are thought to be due to issues at Glasgow Airport or with the newspaper distributors.
* It was noted that the replacement of the Clansman is not a priority at the moment, the Clansman is 22 years old, which make it one of the younger vessels on the fleet. It was agreed to raise this at the next Tiree Transport Forum Meeting.
* It was previously agreed to investigate the possibility of additional works being done to the Clansman to increase capacity whilst adhering to Government Guidelines on Covid during the vessels dry dock visit. It was noted that the dry-docking schedule is very limited and there would be no free time to incorporate additional works.
* There is a Tiree Transport Forum meeting scheduled for next month, it was agreed **GMG and SC** would represent Tiree Community Council at the Transport Meetings going forward.
* It was noted that on Mull farmers face difficulty during sale times securing bookings to get livestock off the island. It was noted that this is not a regular issue for Tiree as there is a livestock mart on the island were sales can take place, and CalMac provide additional sailings to ensure the livestock can be taken from the island after the sales have taken place.

1. **Openreach / Internet Connectivity Issues**

* A BT fault took place from 2nd November until 11th November, this fault impacted approximately one third of the island, including the whole Tiree Broadband network.
* It was noted that during this time communication from Openreach was very poor. Repair dates were inconsistent between different customers making it difficult provide updates to the community and plan for a long period of downtime.
* Tiree Community Council does have contacts who may be able to assist with these issues going forward. It was noted that there is an informal group currently working together to raise these issues at a higher level as well as other connectivity issues that the island might face.
* Tiree Broadband is currently working to improve the resilience of the network to ensure a continuity in service in the event that another fault takes place in the future.
* EE have postponed the repair works to the mast at the west end of the island until early December.
* The Scottish Government are currently running an initiative called R100 whereby 100% of Scottish households and businesses will have access to at least 30mbps of speed.
* It was noted that the communications group will be formalised going forward with minutes being produced etc.

1. **Forming a Planning Sub-group**

* Community Councils are statutory consultees on planning matters, meaning there is an opportunity and responsibility to provide comment on planning applications that may impact the community and other planning matters.
* The purpose of the Sub-group will be to write a planning policy for Tiree Community Council, which will be open for community consultation before being formally adopted. The policy will create a clear procedure for engaging with Argyll and Bute council and for engaging with the community on any matters.
* The sub-group will also engage with planning officers, read planning legislation and attend other Community Council meetings to gain a full background on planning issues.
* It was noted that there is a new local plan being developed with new planning guidelines for Argyll and Bute.
* It was noted that the area at the Pier Head is an important issue, that may not fall under planning, but could be brought up at the Harbours Users meeting.
* **MJD** supported this idea going forward.
* It was agreed to set up a planning sub-group, the members will be **PM, LR, SC, JP,** and **IC.**
* It is hoped that there will be draft planning policy completed by early 2021.

1. **Discussion of positions for TCC ahead of Tiree Trust meeting on certain issues:**

**Proposed Motion 1: Tiree Community Council agrees to work with other bodies, including the Tiree Community Development Trust, Argyll and Bute Council and the Scottish Government, with the objective of developing policies that aim to increase the Tiree population as counted in the Census between 2021 and 2031.**

**Proposed Motion 2: Tiree Community Council agrees to work with other bodies with the aim of increasing the number of Gaelic speakers on the island to 45% by 2031 as established by the Census**

* **JH** gave a brief overview of the reasoning behind the above motions.
* A meeting is scheduled to take place with Tiree Community Development Trust whereby the above issues will be discussed. It is thought to be beneficial to have a clear stance on the above issues, in the form of two precise motions.
* Advice has been given by Argyll and Bute Council Governance officer that motions such as these will be a productive way forward and allow for a tangible goal.
* A number of comments were received the main points are as follows:
* The importance of measured goals was noted, and it was suggested that population decline is an extremely important matter for the viability of the island going forward. However, it is thought that the number of Gaelic speakers on the island does not have an impact on population decline and is more of a social issue than a political issue. It was further suggested that it may be more beneficial to focus on one motion as oppose to the two set out above.
* It was previously commented that by trying to increase the population of the island the results may contradict the aims of the second motion to increase the level of Gaelic speakers, the majority of those moving to Tiree will not be Gaelic speakers and will further dilute the figures. It may be useful to take advice from other groups on the island who have done some previous work on these issues.
* It was argued that both motions are of a political nature, however capacity may be an issue going forward. It was suggested that TCC could hold on to these motions as aspirations. These motions can be seen as a mechanism to agree a stance on certain issues going forward. The actions and time spent on these issues can be agreed at a future date.
* Gaelic is also very important to Tiree on a cultural basis as well as politically and socially.
* It was noted that capacity may be an issue going forward, and that working with other groups on the island such as Tiree Community Development Trust and Tiree High School is vital in achieving the goals set out.
* If the population of Tiree decreases, there could be a decrease of services on the island as a result. Consequently, this could also see a decrease in Gaelic speakers. Working with other bodies on the island will make these objectives much more manageable and will help safeguard the population and the Gaelic speaking culture of the island.
* Employing full time Gaelic Development officers could be an effective way to embed the language into the community again. Central Government would require lobbying to secure funds to do this effectively.
* It was suggested that another body be the driver of these motions and Tiree Community Council support them. The measure of success should be measured by and against the lead body.
* It was suggested that Gaelic is a political matter and is extremely important to the island’s community and culture. It may not be in the council’s best interest to measure the success of these matters, as the Community Council alone will not have the capacity to affect the figures. A very detailed piece of work on the current state of Gaelic on Tiree has been completed by Rhoda Meek, for Tiree Community Development Trust. It was suggested that the Community Council strongly support any work that is undertaken by the Trust to further the growth of the Gaelic language on Tiree. It was further recommended that both motions should not be considered at the same time, although they are linked, they are both separate issues and by putting both issues together a decision will inevitably have to be made about which one is more important going forward, both topics are important for Tiree, but need to be approached in different ways. It is difficult to measure which issue should be tackled first, by offsetting population increase with language and exiting culture a divide could be caused amongst the islanders. The way forward is to find creative solutions for the two things to complement each other, for example by making it easier and more interesting for people to learn Gaelic, by ensuring there are housing options for young people on the island, ensuring that there are Gaelic speaking jobs for people and that encouragement given those who move here that Tiree is a safe environment for learners and there is the opportunity to learn Gaelic on the island. Gaelic on the Tiree needs to be sustainable for the lifetime of residents, budget and political will is required to make these motions successful.
* It was noted that there are some concerns that some aspects of Gaelic are not available to school children, there is no opportunity for a child moving to Tiree to enter the fluent Gaelic glasses or attend any of the Gaelic youth groups, there could be initiatives introduced which would mean young children moving to the island are given more opportunities to take part without diluting the efforts of the fluent children. There are opportunities for learners, but there is no scenario that sees them in an exclusively Gaelic situation. By allowing children to teach their peers it will increase their confidence in using the language meaning they will use it more out with the school environment.
* **JH** proposed that Tiree Community Council work with other bodies on the island with the aim of increasing the number of Gaelic speakers on the island. The previous motion regarding Gaelic will no longer stand. This was seconded by **PM** and agreed by all present.
* **JH** proposed that Tiree Community Council agrees to work with other bodies, including the Tiree Community Development Trust, Argyll and Bute Council and the Scottish Government, with the objective of developing policies that aim to increase the Tiree population as counted in the Census between 2021 and 2031. This was seconded by **PM** and agreed by all present.

1. **AOCB**

* It is thought there is an issue with the capacity of trades people on the island and that there is concern going forward that there may not be any succession plans for those who will retire. It was agreed to bring this up at the meeting with the Tiree Trust.
* A letter of complaint has been received regarding the pierhead, CMAL have been in touch with the contactors at the pier to ensure that the area will be tidied up. It was suggested that the Harbour Users group would be the best place to raise this issue. **GMG** gave a brief overview of the previous minutes, it was noted that this matter can come under the agenda points agreed for the upcoming meeting.
* A letter has been received from the boundaries commission; Tiree Community Council will attend a meeting to discuss the boundaries proposal. There have been various examples of support that Tiree should have a designated councillor. Tiree Community Council are looking for feedback from the community on this matter.
* **MJD** noted that it would be useful to investigate if there is any local people interested in standing for election.
* It was noted that there will be a private agenda meeting in the upcoming weeks, the minutes of which will be circulated.
* Thanks were given to all in attendance and all who contributed to the meeting.

***There being no other business the meeting was closed; the date of the next meeting is 9th November***

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| **ACTION** | **BY WHOM** | **BY WHEN** |
| Place correspondence with Transport Scotland re SAAB on website | **PM** | **9th Dec** |
| Place Covid insights from Caribbean on website | **PM** | **9th Dec** |
| Investigate current recycling process with local council team | **JH** | **9th Dec** |
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