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| **Date** | 10th February 2021 |
| **Time** | 1900hrs |
| **Venue** | Zoom Video Conference |
| **Present** | **Councillors Present:** John Holliday (JH), Phyl Meyer (PM), Alison Clark (AC), John Patience (JP), Gerard McGoogan (GMG), Iona Campbell (IC), Stewart Carr (SC) and Louise Reid (LR)  **Argyll and Bute Councillors :** Jamie MacGregor (JMG) and Jim Lynch (JL)  **Minute Taker:** Louise Reid  **Public – Approx. 33 devices (at peak) connected to the call including the above** |

1. **Welcome and apologies.**

* The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting there were no formal apologies received. It was noted that the meeting was being recorded for minute taking purposes.

1. **Conflict of Interest**

* **None**

1. **Previous Minutes and Matters Arising**

* The previous minutes are available on the meeting notice on the Community Council Website.
* **PM** has contacted the Scottish Community Council support team regarding the ongoing cost of TCC email accounts. **PM** contacted the Charity Digital Exchange, and it was found that Community Councils are not eligible for charitable discounts on software. It was agreed to continue to investigate this. ***PM to action.***
* A letter was previously received from a student at the Glasgow School of Art regarding a potential project on Tiree, **JH** has responded in support.
* Discussions are ongoing regarding a new bin lorry for Tiree, it is thought that there will be a new bin lorry and skip lorry allocated to the island.
* **JH** is continuing to liaise with the local fishermen to arrange a meeting to discuss ongoing issues within the fishing industry.
* A letter has been written to Donald MacFarlane (Dental Officer within Argyll and Bute Social Care Partnership) regarding the dental care on Tiree. A response has been received and it was noted that a short term locum arrangement will be made, with the hope of having a longer term solution in place.
* **JH** attended one meeting with the Scottish Islands Federation – Argyll Group.
* A submission has been made to the Boundaries Commission, a copy of which is available on the website. Tiree Community Council also attended a meeting with a Senior member of the Commission along with representatives from Coll, to reinforce the proposal made in the written submission.
* Investigation is ongoing regarding a Shoreline Management Plan for the island.
* It was noted that in any area accessible to the public with a vehicle falls under the rules of the highway code, this includes open beaches etc. The national speed limit does apply on beaches, however care and responsibility must be exercised when driving on beaches or on off road tracks.
* The Pier Sub-Group has met, a survey is currently being created to gather improvement suggestions from the community. The results of the survey will be shared with CMAL and CalMac to show what business operators and users of the area would like to see. Investigation is also ongoing regarding the land ownership of the area; a request has been made to CMAL for some clarification. A further request has also been made to CalMac for the Pedestrian Safety Plan for the area.
* **JH** is investigating the possibility of having written Tiree Community Council documents translated into Gaelic. Correspondence is ongoing with the Gaelic Development Officer of Argyll and Bute Council and a meeting is scheduled with Fèisean nan Gàidheal to discuss funding. It was noted that other Community Councils in Argyll and Bute Council are also interested in running joining a piolet programme to improve the use of Gaelic within communities.
* **GMG** is continuing to investigate fuel poverty on Tiree, helpful links will be shared for any concerned residents. It was also agreed to write to West Highland Housing Association (WHHA) and ask if there are any plans to update the current heating systems in the WHHA homes on Tiree.
* A short term lets consultation was previously discussed, initially it was thought that Bed and Breakfasts would not be included in the licencing scheme along with other self-catering properties, however it was recently found that they will be. It was noted that no consultation took place within the Bed and Breakfast owner community. **AC** is continuing to engage with ASSC (Association of Scotland’s Self Caterers) to find out more information and complete any consultations/surveys that come forward. It was agreed to share feedback with regards to the legislation decision once available. ***AC to action.***  It was noted that the deadline to have a licence in place is 2023. **JL** also agreed to share more information on this issue with regards to local authority charge limits etc. ***JL to action.***
* There being no other matters arising the minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Proposed by ***AC*** and seconded by ***SC.***

1. **Correspondence**

* Consultation is currently underway regarding cemeteries in Argyll and Bute Council. Suggestions included that volunteers may take over the grass cutting and that both cemeteries on Tiree will not be extended once capacity is reached. At the current rate of usage Kirkapol Cemetery will be viable for 35 years and Sorobaidh 13 years. All present agreed that Tiree Community Council should propose that the cemeteries on the island should be extended after capacity is reached or a new site location be identified. ***JH to action.*** It was noted that it is possible for people to have their remains buried own land and thought that if there was no graveyard facility on the island then there may be a requirement for a mortuary. **JL** agreed to get some more information on this matter. ***JL to action.***
* A number of correspondences was received during the recent cold weather regarding road gritting. It was noted that currently all roads are gritted by hand making it difficult to grit all roads quickly. **JH** made some enquiries, and it was found that there are overtime hours available for gritting to be carried out and it is hoped that a mechanical gritter will be provided to the local team on the island to make this task more manageable.
* Concerns have been raised by council officials that the Old Parish Church in Kirkapol is no longer safe for people to walk around. Historic Scotland have a responsibility to keep the chapel in good condition. **JH** has written to Historic Scotland regarding this concern. A reply has been received and from a historical point of view the condition of the chapel remains acceptable. **JH** will progress this to ensure that the church remains open to the public. ***JH to action.***
* A letter has been received about ferry bookings after travel restrictions are eased. Concerns were raised that a similar situation to last year may occur whereby locals will be unable to leave and return to the island for essential travel reasons. It was noted that a Government announcement is due to be made on February 22nd regarding restrictions. It was suggested that after the announcement has been made Tiree Community Council begin to work with CalMac and Transport Scotland to ensure there is some safeguarding of spaces for island residents as was previously in place. It was also suggested that lobbying take place to ensure that when the contract is reviewed for the ferry routes, the ability for CalMac to make changes at a local level is included.
* A letter has been received regarding the cost of the Telecare alarm system in Argyll and Bute which is the second most expensive area in Scotland for this service, it was noted that the level of service may vary, but it is a similar service. **JL** is currently looking for answers to the following queries:
* Why does the service cost £5.46pw?
* Who is eligible for the service?
* What can be done if someone requiring the service is in financial difficulty?

It was also noted that there was a recent announcement made about the potential for a national care service at a government level, it was suggested that this could have some implications on the issue but may present an opportunity to lobby the matter.

* A letter was received from a group of local fishermen regarding concerns over shellfish export. Neil MacPhail (**NMP)** and Ross MacLennan (**RML)** attended the meeting to represent the fishermen. It was noted that the process for delivering live food over the border (mainly the paperwork side) to France is very complicated due to government guidelines. This is deterring buyers, meaning the remaining ones can charge more for the service, which is consequently leading a financial loss for the fishermen. The Tiree fishing community have requested that Tiree Community Council write a letter of support which will help raise awareness of the issue at Government level and secure the future of the fishing industry. It was agreed to meet with **NMP** and **RML** to discuss this further and find out more about the issues faced. All present were in favour of supporting this issue.
* A report was received from Police Scotland. Six incidents have been reported within the last month. One incident concerned a Grey Nissan Duke vehicle which was discovered lying on its roof on Balephetrish Beach, this was subsequently reported stolen from the Crossapol area sometime during the evening of Wednesday 20th January. Police Scotland are looking for anyone who may have seen the vehicle between 11pm Wednesday evening and 1am the following morning, or anyone with any relevant information to get in touch.
* Information has been received from the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Planning Group, a consultation is currently underway regarding town centres, and a motor home and informal camping consultation. It was noted that both consultations are available for anyone who may be interested in submitting a view.
* Tiree Music Festival have announced that the 2021 event has now been cancelled due to covid-19. Thanks were given to the TMF team for ongoing work on the event.
* A capital building work seminar taking place on the 15th February regarding council procurement tenders. **PM** noted that anyone with an interest can attend.

1. **Erosion Risk to the Island**

* A number of correspondences continue to be received regarding erosion on the island. It was noted at the last meeting that its unsure as to whether or not extraction of beach gravel is a contributing factor to this. It was suggested that Tiree Community Council investigate the possibility of having a report carried out to ascertain which parts of the coastline are at risk from extreme erosion and what can be done to mitigate this.
* It was noted that many coastal areas have a Shoreline Management Plan which is usually published by the local authority, it is thought that it would be good for Tiree to have a similar document outlining the risks. It was agreed to share the Ayrshire plan with **JL** and **JMG**. ***GMG to action.***
* It’s unsure as to how in depth a plan is required for Tiree and if Tiree Community Council is the correct body to take this forward. It was noted that funding available to TCC is limited and it may not be feasible for the Community Council to undertake this task. It was noted that there may be a number of stakeholders or universities willing to contribute to this. It was agreed that Tiree Community Council does not have the knowledge or finances to carry out such an investigation, but noted that it is worth pursuing this with other bodies/Universities/Argyll and Bute Council etc. **JL** agreed to investigate if any Shoreline Management Plans had been produced in Argyll and Bute and ascertain if a plan could be produced for Tiree. ***JL to action.***

1. **Website and Social Media Moderation Policy**

* It was previously agreed to create draft Website and Social Media policy to enable the use of moderated comments on the website and social media platforms. A draft policy has been created with input from all councillors and is as follows, thanks were given to **IC and Robert Trythall (RT)**.
* **Please be kind, courteous and constructive**: No hate speech, or the use of aggressive, offensive or foul language will be tolerated. Respect the views of others and, in the event of disagreement, please do so politely.
* **Please keep your comment relevant**: Stay on topic and keep the conversation productive.
* **Please don’t say anything online that you wouldn’t want shared, or that you wouldn’t want to put your name to**: Our website requires you to sign-in using your own name before posting a comment, as does Facebook. Anonymous posting or obvious pseudonyms will not be approved by moderators.
* When you participate in a discussion, you are responsible for ensuring that any material you post to the TCC website does not violate or infringe upon the copyright, patent, trademark, or any other personal or proprietary rights of any third party and is posted with the permission of the owner(s) of such rights.
* TCC reserves the right to remove comments that do not comply with these rules.On our website, this will mean that any comments that do not comply with the rules will not be approved and published. On Facebook, any such comments will be deleted if noticed or brought to the attention of a moderator by a member of the community.
* Posts on the TCC website and Facebook page will be moderated by the TCC secretary or other nominated councillors. If a comment is thought to be unsuitable for publication on the TCC website or Facebook page, it will be returned to the author with an explanation. More complex cases may be discussed by the whole community council in a private meeting.
* TCC reserves the right to share and discuss comments and points that are made publicly online.
* It was also previously suggested that an insurance be made that the website and social media pages would run in parallel. After some discussion it was agreed that there are occasions where requests for items to be posted specifically on social media are made and that not all content may be in an appropriate format for the website. It was agreed however to implement the use of plug-ins on the website, which would allow for the Tiree Community Council Facebook feed to be visible on the homepage. All items which remain important to the functionality of Tiree Community Council will continue to be placed on the parent website, such as minutes, agendas, major consultations etc.
* **SC** suggested that enough time had not been spend on the moderation policy and encouraged councillors that the adoption of the policy be deferred for a period of two weeks.
* A number of comments were then received by the councillors and the public.
* It suggested by a number of councillors that by delaying the implementation of the policy the reinstatement of the comments function will also be delayed.
* A member of the public noted the use of the phrase ‘hate speech’ and its possible misuse as it is very difficult to define and suggested that this be removed from the policy.
* It was noted that it is best practice for policies and procedures to be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure they stay relevant and accurate.
* The importance of making sure the policy is correctly placed on the website was reinforced.
* **SC** lastly noted that the benefits of delaying the adoption of the policy would include the ability to ensure that the policy is fit for purpose and best serves the Tiree Community, highlighting the importance of a safe space where contributors will not be intimated, bullied or ganged up on allowing for a democratic process within the comment mechanism of the website. It was also suggested that there are a number of terms which could be better clarified, such as the term ‘politely’.
* **SC** proposed that the agreement and the adoption of the Website and Social Media policy be deferred until the next meeting. This was seconded by **AC.** A discussion took place, two Councillors voted in favour of this proposal and five against meaning the motion was not carried.
* **SC** then proposed a change to the wording of the proposal to include the following:
* Please do not give instructions to other correspondents
* Avoid tribalism: Align yourself with an idea, principle or proposal and do not praise of denigrate other contributors or organisations.
* This was seconded by **AC.** A discussion took place,two Councillors voted in favour of this proposal and five against meaning the motion was not carried.
* **PM** proposed that the Website and Social Media Policy (as shown in draft form on the Tiree Community Council website be agreed and adopted by the council. This was seconded by **LR**. Five Councillors voted in favour of this and two against meaning the policy motion carries and the policy will be published as it stands. It was also agreed that the policy would be reviewed on a regular basis.
* **PM** agreed to look at the website design to ensure that the agreed policy is placed in a suitable and visible location, a member of the public also offered assistance on this matter. ***PM to action.***

1. **Planning Report**

* **JP** gave a brief update on the progress of the planning sub-group.
* A meeting took place on the 26th of January which was open for public attendance, the minutes of which are available on the website.
* Discussion included an overview of the planning application process, and the role of Tiree Community Council as a statutory consultee on planning matters, a document has been produced regarding this role.
* A discussion also took place regarding what the review process for how planning applications are assed might look like. It was suggested that a flow chart could be used, utilising guidelines from the local development plan, guidance on domestic, non-domestic and listed buildings, etc. It was also suggested that a checklist be created to help identify the type of planning applications that the Community Council might support or raise objection to, such as controversial applications, domestic applications that are a departure from the local plan or non-domestic applications that may have a social, cultural or economic impact. It was noted that there may also be some applications which will not fall into these defined categories.
* The sub-group are also investigating the processes other Community Councils follow with regard to planning matters. It was noted that both Mull Community Council and Cumbria Community Council do not have written policies but do follow guidance from Argyll and Bute Council. Both Community Councils noted that they only get involved in planning matters when an application is seen to be controversial.
* The planning sub-group are continuing to work on a draft planning policy which will be brought to the full council for discussion and adoption/rejection. The policy will focus on local applications that have a potential to have an impact on a significant number of people. It is the aim of the planning policy to support local development. It is hoped that this will be presented at the March meeting.

***12.* AOCB**

* **GMG, PM, LR** and **Mark Vale (MV)** met to discuss connectivity on the island, the group will continue to meet to try and improve services on the island.
* The wartime dump exposed on Crossapol Beach is currently being investigated by HIAL. It has been removed that the exposed gravel on Crossapol Beach will be removed.
* A new ramp has been received for the Twin Otter Aircraft, meaning that there will be no passenger weight limit as there was previously.
* It was noted that the 2021 Argyll and Bute Council is due to be realised on 25th February.
* **SC** noted that contractors are scheduled to arrive on Tiree to carry out works relating to the TCDT fuel station project. It was assured that the contractors will follow all Covid guidelines and stay removed from the community.

***There being no other business the meeting was closed.***

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| **ACTION** | **BY WHOM** | **BY WHEN** |
| Continue to investigate charitable discounts for software | PM | 10th March |
| Share information on cemetery arrangements on other islands | JL | 10th March |
| Continue to pursue Kirkapol church repair | JH | 10th March |
| Share results of B&B short term let legislation | AC | 10th March |
| Investigate short term let licence charges within the local authority | JL | 10th March |
| Share Ayrshire Shoreline Management Plan with JL | GMG | 10th March |
| Investigate Shoreline Management Plans within Argyll and Bute | JL | 10th March |
| Place moderation policy onto the website in a suitable place | PM | 10th March |