**MINUTES**

**SEPTEMBER PUBLIC MEETING OF TIREE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**8 September 2020 7 pm**

**by Zoom**

1. **Present**: Councillors Dr John Holliday (chair), Phyl Meyer, Gerald McGoogan, Iona Campbell and John Patience. Cllr Mary-Jean Devon attended from Mull. Don McKillop attended from CalMac.
2. **Welcome**: The chair welcomed all to the meeting and the workings of Zoom were explained.
3. **Apologies**: There were no apologies.
4. **Conflicts of interest**: There were none declared.
5. **Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**: The minutes had been received late and had not been posted prior to the meeting. Matters arising were:

* The appointed dentist has not been able to continue in post. **JH agreed to write to John Lyon to ask about future regular check-ups for island children minimising loss of school time. PM and JH and a member of the local dental team will meet to see if there is anything that island groups could add to the package to attract a dentist**
* Pavements in Crossapol: the Council was notified three months ago, with no action taken. **PM will contact one of the A&B councillors to put pressure on the Roads Department**
* **JH will speak to the local roads team about earlier verge cutting at certain junctions next summer**
* **PM, IC and JH will meet about TCC/Trust liaison**
* GM reported that there are 420 bushes are arriving at the Community Garden in November
* Cllr Carr had volunteered to write a letter to A&BC about street litter bins. As far as we knew, this was still pending

We agreed not to pass the minutes formally as they had arrived too late for a full inspection. We will make any corrections and post them prior to the November meeting.

1. **Don McKillop, Area Operations Manager for CalMac**: CalMac have had real challenges this last quarter with drydock issues, technical outages which are increasing in frequency and Covid. Most recently, the *Hebrides* was forced into drydock, meaning the *Clansman* had to be sent up north. Additional sailings have been deployed to the Tiree run, but some capacity was lost. Volumes of foot passengers increased after 9 August when social distancing regulations were removed. Domestic tourism has increased markedly, meaning that islanders often found it difficult to travel. One mitigation for this is a ruling that campervans will no longer be taken on stand-by. Transport Scotland and the minister are engaging with this problem. The number of cases of Covid amongst the crew has been increasing. Close contacts have to isolate, and this has led to some service cancellations. Face mask compliance among passengers is also now slipping, down to 50% sometimes. **GM thanked the crews for their work through these difficult times**. Don will ask Robin Scawthorne, who is leading on the new ticketing website, to attend the next TCC meeting. There is currently some discussion within Transport Scotland on ‘dynamic pricing’ to drive changes in people’s travel habits. JH thanked him for attending. DMK said he would be happy to come to any future meetings.
2. **Correspondence**:

* Baugh phone box has still not been repaired – **JH will chase up**
* There are no dog waste bins on Tiree, particularly at the pier. PM had asked the ranger about this, and the problem is getting bins emptied regularly. The pier dog waste bin has now been removed because it was being abused. Most dog waste bins on Mull have also been removed. **MJD will speak to Amenities about the lack of public bins.** TCC will return to this issue
* TCC have written to the Hebridean Trust about rumours of a sale of Hynish. Mabel MacArthur felt that Hynish was part of the community’s heritage
* Queen’s Platinum Jubilee: we made no commitments to this festival at the moment
* Consultation on the decarbonisation of offshore windfarms. This does not affect the area around Tiree. **GM will fill in the survey**
* The fall in broadband speeds at the height of the tourist season
* 4G mast in Cornaigmore: upgrades keep being deferred. **GM will chase up**
* It has been reported to us that there had been some poor driving on the island this summer. Gigha have made a good video about single-track roads which is on Youtube. We could post the link for this. There has also been some correspondence about an increase in drink driving on Tiree. **JH will write to the local policeman about this**

1. **Report of Mull Community Council meeting**: there is an accommodation problem on Mull for workers in the summer. MCC proposes to write to island second home owners to see if they can help.
2. **Resignation of Louise Reid and Stewart Carr as councillors**: JH has written to thank them for their contributions. We need more women and young people, possibly a crofter and a fisherperson. MJD suggested young people from the school, and advisers under Skills and Knowledge for specific projects; there are currently four on Mull CC. Mabel MacArthur suggested a personal approach was often helpful. **Since we have a number of important projects coming up, we agreed to advertise for co-opted members to increase our numbers, and broaden our skill base and representation.**
3. **Tiree Community Council Planning Policy**: We considered the latest version (August 2021) which was on the website. We agreed that this new planning policy supersedes any previous TCC planning policy. We agreed the new policy unanimously: proposed PM, seconded JP.
4. **Coastal erosion**: GM went through a Power Point presentation based on recent research from Dynamic Earth. Three areas of Tiree (Balephetrish, Gott and Hynish Bays) were chosen for particular scrutiny and a high tide mark up to 2050 has been estimated. Argyll and Bute Council has 4200 km of coastline, a huge amount. The only A&BC obligation is maintaining the road network. Several stretches of road are likely to be lost by 2050: for example, at Balephetrish, Gott Bay and The Reef. This might well prevent emergency services access at some times. We need to tell islanders what to expect, we need to resist kelp extraction around the island, to restrict sand extraction from the few stretches of beaches at risk of erosion, and to reduce driving and parking on dunes and the beach. There is a national £12m fund for the mitigation of coastal erosion, but Tiree will be well down the list, compared to places like the SSEC. **Tiree, therefore may well have to act alone. MJD will ask Robin Currie about his views on coastal erosion in Argyll and Bute.**
5. **Community wind turbine**: PM gave a presentation on the current repairs to Tilley, which has not been spinning for a year. This may be finished by next week. The costs have been covered by insurance.
6. **Planning application**: Adiscussion of an application for ‘The Bothy’, Balemartine (reference 21/01186/PP). JP presented the relevant considerations, given that it is a ‘B’ listed building. There are valid reasons to support and oppose this application. The plan does save the building in its present form. The proposed extension, however, negatively impacts on the setting of the building in the landscape setting. A statement from the architect was summarised and the plans displayed. There has been one written objection to this proposal. MJD was unable to comment as she is on the Planning Committee, but she recommended consulting the wider community. A member of the public argued that the community council should cause no further delay. **We decided not to ask for another extension and to write to planning taking a neutral stance.**
7. **Should Tiree Community Council re-start face-to-face meetings**? A&BC have advised that community councils can go back to face-to-face meetings, but this is optional. TCC will be part of a three-month project over the winter to simultaneous translate our meetings with James Galbraith. Zoom has allowed more people to attend our meetings, although technical problems do cause difficulties. Hybrid meetings have problems of their own. **We decided to continue with Zoom meetings for the time being.**
8. **Coop supplies**: we agreed a vote of thanks to the Cooperative group for giving the Tiree store a protected status for deliveries because of our isolation.
9. **AOCB:** Donnie MacInnes has provided a very full report from the CalMac Community Board, of which he is now a member. GM summarised the situation with R100. We will come back to this at a future meeting. MJD encouraged people on Tiree to stand as an Argyll and Bute councillors as she is standing down. There were no points from members of the community.
10. **Date of next meeting**: the second Wednesday of October.

The meeting ending at 9.30pm