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| **Date** | 20th October 2021 |
| **Time** | 1900hrs |
| **Venue** | Zoom Video Conference  |
| **Present** | **Councillors Present**: John Holliday (Chair, JH), Phyl Meyer (PM), John Patience (JP), Gerard McGoogan (GMG), **Councillor Apologies:** Iona Campbell (IC)Minute Taker: Kate Bauen (KB)Members of the Public: approximately 20 |

# Welcome

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting which had been rescheduled due to availability from 13th October.

It was noted that the meeting was being recorded for minute taking purposes. Some basic Zoom etiquette was explained.

# 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Iona Campbell.

# 3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

JH and GMG have a conflict of interest with discussion related to the telephone box in Scarinish.

# 4. Minutes of Last Meetings

**Minutes of the 11th August Community Council Meeting**

The minutes were introduced quite late and councillors previously asked for a delay before approval. Matter arising have been dealt with.

No corrections were indicated. The minutes were approved. Proposer PM, Seconded by GMG

**Meeting minutes from 8th September Community Council meeting**

**Matters Arising**

1. **Dentist** – a dentist was appointed to post however resigned soon after. The post is still vacant with locums covering. 19 children are awaiting dental check-ups which is unsatisfactory. JH has written to John Lyon, Clinical Dental Director for NHS Highland, asking about the plan for resolution. JH also asked if other island organisations are prepared to add to the employment package for the post, was it something worth discussing further.
2. **CALMAC**: Booking System – CALMAC could not attend the meeting this month due to the rescheduled date. GMG informed those present that the introduction of the new CALMC Booking System has been delayed until March as further Beta Testing is needed. Don MacKillop indicated that someone will be present at the November meeting to give an update.
3. **Baugh Phone Box** – the phone box has been repaired however there is an issue with the mechanism – it accepts only pound coins but not others. JH and GMG will test it and follow up. PM will amend the website update indicating it was fully operational.
4. **Public Bins –** No further information or feedback from Mary-Jean Devon at this time.
5. **Driving on Tiree** – concerns were raised about bad driving and drink driving. JH had written to the Island Police Officer who indicated that he would pass on the concerns raised to his superiors. He recommends that if anyone has issues they report immediately to Police Scotland to allow the matter to be dealt with in a timely fashion.
6. **Coastal Erosion** – no further feedback from Mary Jean Devon at this time.
7. **Boundary Commission Review of Ward Boundaries** – The proposals for Argyll and Bute (as well as the proposals for the Highland area) have been rejected by the Scottish Parliament committee - the main reason being the insufficient recognition for the need for representation in smaller rural areas. The vote to reject was unanimous and the Boundary Commission may be asked by the committee to resubmit an alternative. The impact is that boundaries will not change before the next election.

**The minutes from the 8th September meeting were approved**. Proposed by GMG and seconded by PM

# 5. Correspondence:

1. Police Cover on Tiree - PM indicated that he had spoken to the local area Police Inspector some time ago regarding lack of police cover when the local officer is on holiday. A recent response indicated that he would like to come to a future TCC meeting to discuss what can be proactively done regarding anti-social behaviour on the island and he would like to discuss making information available related to Special Constable recruitment. He will endeavour to bring a Special Constable from Mull to the meeting and will be back in touch in due course. Police policy is that he will be unable to attend a ZOOM Meeting so alternative arrangements may need to be made.
2. Policing Report – There have been 2 unusual crimes this month:
* A mechanical saw was taken from the Fuel Station construction site in Crossapol
* Money was taken from a car on the Reef

PC Tanner indicated that these crimes are unusual for the island and that members of the public should remain vigilant and exercise caution with regards to their own property.

1. JH has written to Angela Pritchard (the BT representative for phone boxes).
2. CALMAC has been in touch to indicate that they will be undertaking a Socio-Economic Study. JH will meet with them on Tuesday 26th October to have preliminary discussion regarding the aims and objectives.
3. A letter was received from Robin Curry, Council Leader regarding dog fouling.
4. A letter was received from the [‘**Light Up Red Campaign**’](https://www.poppyscotland.org.uk/get-involved/poppy-appeal/light-up-red-2021) inviting buildings large and small to ‘Light Up Red’ in support of the Scottish Poppy Appeal. JH asked Councillors and public to come back to him with ideas.
5. A letter was received from ‘[**Changing Places Toilets**’](https://www.changing-places.org/). Standard accessible toilets do not meet the needs of all people with a disability – some need extra equipment and space to allow them to use the toilets safely and comfortably. These needs are met by Changing Places toilets. CALMAC is hosting a workshop on 28th October on having these toilets at their harbours including Tiree should anyone wish to attend.
6. Tiree Harbours Users Consultative Forum will meet on 22nd Nov. GMG will attend and JH encouraged members of the public with an interest also to attend.
7. Correspondence has been received regarding the Community Council involvement in schools after a discussion with Mary-Jean Devon on the way Mull Community Council operates. JH is taking this forward and will come back in due course.
8. A letter has been received from the Licencing Board indicating a hearing on 9th November for the Tiree Coop application to play music in the store. Objections should be made known to Tiree Community Council before this date.
9. A letter has been received about human waste on Balevullin Beach. Tiree Community Development Trust had picked up the topic and PM indicated that there is a commitment to work to bring the key stakeholders together to discuss the issue and look at longer term options for a solution.
10. We have received the up-to-date list of relevant planning applications from Argyll and Bute Planning Department - there have been 6 applications made since the last meeting – a higher number than would be expected. These are briefly:
* Milton - Extension to a garage to provide storage
* Ruaig - Demolition of a steading ad erection of a two-storey extension
* Heylipol – Erection of a dwelling
* Balinoe – Erection of a dwelling
* Ballevulin – Erection of a dewing
* Ruaig – Erection of an extension to a dwelling

# 6. Meetings reports:

1. **Tiree Community Development Trust**. PM and JH held a joint TCC/TCDT meeting to initiate the discussion on the joint relationship moving forward with the objective of having a formal written understanding between the two parties. Further discussion is needed. PM is currently writing a draft of this document, which will be presented for discussion at the November or December meeting (after the TCDT AGM and allowing for the new Board of Directors to be in place).
2. **Mull Community Council**. JH indicated no relevant matters for TCC from the meeting. JH indicated that he watched the recording of the Mull Community Council Meeting online and asked councillors what their feelings were about making the meeting recording available online. A discussion took place, the following points were raised:
* Invited attendees may not be so open during discussions.
* Opt-out of recording for particular topics would need to be in place.
* If TCC have a policy about recordings being used for specific purpose then there is no issue as long the policy is complied with and made clear during the meeting.
* Putting the recording online may discourage people from attending if they know there is an alternative
* It may discourage people from speaking out during meetings.

Opinions were noted. No decision was taken

# 7. Consultations:

[**A National Care Service for Scotland**](https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-care-service-scotland-consultation/)**:** This consultation sets out proposals to improve the way social care in Scotland is delivered, following the recommendations of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care. JH has written to the island Doctors to solicit their views and asked members of the public to pass on their views.

[**The Islands Bond**](https://www.gov.scot/publications/islands-bond-consultation/)**:** JH gave a brief background to the consultation - the Scottish Government has made a commitment to developing an Islands Bond - offering 100 bonds of up to £50,000 to young people and families to stay in or to move to islands currently threatened by depopulation. This consultation is inviting comments to inform the development of this policy and closes on 25th October.

Due to the tight timeline, JH invited comments from councillors on whether TCC should respond. The following points were made:

* It would be remiss of TCC not to respond, regardless of the political intention of the consultation, in terms of the opportunity it may open up.
* We may just see house prices locally going up by £50k.
* It could be a good opportunity if handled well and we should respond.
* It should not be allowed to purchase a property using this type of fund.
* It is far easier to retain people than recruit newcomers – it would make sense to see a similar scheme to help people stay on the islands.
* It has the potential to be divisive – Tiree is likely to only be awarded one of these grants so there may be people left feeling overlooked to the benefit of one ‘lucky’ individual.

JH invited comments from the public on whether TCC should respond. The following points were made:

* The money should be given to young local folk to keep them on the island and help them start businesses.
* It may be tempting for uncommitted successful applicants to relocate to islands just to start up a business that lasts just a year.
* It would be divisive for local young people and businesses to be overlooked

No decision was taken on whether TCC would respond.

[**Police Scotland. Event Engagement Survey**](https://consult.scotland.police.uk/strategy-insight-and-innovation/copy-of-event-engagement-survey/)**:** Police Scotland would like to understand the experiences of the public and listen to their views about the way they police events in Scotland. They want to hear from those who have attended or experienced events in Scotland recently. For Tiree, TMF is the main event where an event is policed. JH encouraged members of the public to participate in the survey if they have comments.

# 8. Broadband, Cornaigmore Mast Commissioning

GMG and PM have had discussions with Mark Vale and Rhoda Meek (Chair of CIT Ltd) regarding the FTTP/R100 project and way forward. Based on these discussions, GMG made a presentation entitled ‘Broadband on Tiree’. This covered the following:

* Broadband Speed - What we have now -v- what we need.
* [**R100 Scheme**](https://www.gov.scot/news/delivering-r100/) from the Scottish Government & [**Gigabit Voucher Scheme**](https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/) from UK Government.
* Voucher scheme from both for individuals left behind.
* What can you do with the vouchers? Fibre, 4G, Satellite & Fixed Radio
* How do you use the vouchers?
* Grouping Vouchers – Key Points & Actions

The following points were made:

* The scheme is only applicable for those who do not have a Broadband speed of 30MB/s
* It makes sense for vouchers to be pooled across the 270 Tiree Broadband subscribers on a small island
* TBB could become one of the installation companies but, as yet, has not signed up.

GMG asked the public to speak to Tiree Broadband or TCC before applying for and/or spending vouchers.

A public survey will come in the future but at the moment no decision has been made.

The £650 voucher runs out at the end of the year. GMG has asked for this to be extended due to the timeline for the FTTP project (2024-25).

***Information relevant to the public will added to the website.***

**Improvement to Cornaigmore Mast**

GMG informed those present that the hardware has been replaced in the Cornaigmore 4G mast and there are still issues. Technicians will apparently be on site to effect a repair on 1st November.

# 9. Consultation: Remote or Hybrid Community Council Meetings

JH informed those present that a public consultation is now live regarding proposals to amend the existing 2018 [Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils](https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/council-and-government/community-councils#review) in Argyll and Bute. The consultation opened on 1st October and will run until 26 November 2021.

Argyll and Bute Council have two options tabled for those who wish to comment:

1. Meetings to be held by remote means. (For TCC this means ZOOM)

2. Meetings to be held by combination of remote and in person attendance. (Hybrid meeting)

***JH indicated that this information would be published in the An Tirisdeach and would also be shaped into a survey and put online. He asks the public to write to TCC with their comments.***

# 10. Simultaneous translation of TCC meetings into Gaelic

JH informed those present that, as part of the Community Council commitment to promote use of Gaelic on the island, simultaneous translation of TCC meetings into Gaelic will start with the November meeting thanks to a grant for £2.5k from Argyll and Bute Council. A test run will take place w/c 25th October. Users of Zoom will see a green button at the bottom of the screen indicating the language change option. Ian Shaw and James Galbraith are the two translators who will be providing the service.

This will take place for three meetings (Nov – Jan) after which the service will be assessed to determine if it is worth continuing.

# 11. Planning application in Vaul Ref 21/01117/PP

There have been 27 comments (with 22 being objections as of the date of minute writing) on Argyll and Bute planning application site regarding a proposal to allow erection of a dwelling house, detached garage, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access on the land north east of seaside, Vaul.

This application sets out a proposal to build on an area which straddles the Rural Opportunities Countryside areas.

JH has reviewed all of the comments, spoken to the applicant, written to the architect (no response as yet), spoken to the common grazing’s committee.

JP presented the aspects of the build relevant for Community Council consideration, namely:

* Comments on the planning site from [**West Of Scotland Archaeologist Service**](https://portal360.argyll-bute.gov.uk/my-requests/document-viewer?DocNo=22539490) indicates that if the council approves the application then an archaeological evaluation would be required before construction can begin due to the high likelihood of significant remains being found. The area proposed lies in a landscape populated with recorded archaeological sites from prehistoric and later periods.
* TCC Planning Policy indicates that there will be no support for applications made for builds proposed on designated Countryside Area. This proposal straddles both Rural Opportunities and Countryside Areas in terms of the overall development site.
* The proposed access route to the site is significant in length. Concerns regarding this include impact on the existing landscape particularly virgin machair, used as common grazing, which would be significantly damaged during a construction phase. It would be a significant challenge to keep the machair in pristine condition or restore it. JP indicated that, in terms of the application guidance, the access route is not appropriate for this build given the ground that is affected. There may be the option for TCC to go back to the planning department suggesting an alternative access route utilizing an existing track (which has the same ownership as the proposed new track).
* There are two existing stone waymarkers on the application access route which are culturally significant for the island as they are on the route to the broch. They are less than 8ft wide – if the application, as is, was approved, construction traffic would be passing between them regularly. TCC could make representation to the planning department that the waymarkers must be protected.

Councillors discussed the options.

***Consensus was to make representation to the planning department to express concern about the proposed access route, damage to the waymarkers, suggesting the alternative route and supporting the recommendations from the experts regarding wildlife and archaeology. JH to ACTION***

# 12. TCC email system

PM informed those present that TCC currently use Google Workspaces and the entire budget is spent on paying for this. As TCC is not a charity, there is no access to a free license.

During discussions with TCDT, which is a charity, access could be set up to Office 365 as part of the formal written agreement on ways of working. PM has tested this, and it works and retains correspondence archives etc.

When the agreement with TCDT is tabled for approval, this will be included in the proposal.

Data privacy rights would be included in the proposal – as the email addresses would be in one account for both TCDT and TCC, data privacy rights would need to be protected for both parties.

***PM will look at ways to separate out access control to alleviate concerns regarding data privacy.***

# 13. Co-option & Community Council Elections October 2022

* Notice was received that there will be an election on 20th October 2022
* JH indicated that councillor numbers were now down to 5 and there had been no response to the recent article asking for co-opted members to the Community Council.
* Councillors discussed co-option; the decision was taken to leave an ‘open door’ for potential co-opted councillors to come forward at any time.
* JH indicated that this is his last term as Chair and will be standing down in 2022.

# 14. Tiree Transport Forum meeting

* GMG gave an update on efforts to reinstate the Tiree Transport forum.
* No suitable dates have been identified so far however efforts will continue to re-establish the group.

# 15. Coastal Erosion

* GMG gave an update on the workshops that had taken place on Coastal Erosion with Julian Sartorius from Dundee University (Dialogue on Tiree’s Future in a Changing Climate).
* No feedback has been received as yet from Mary Jean Devon
* There is currently a consultation which has not been shared formally with TCC entitled ‘[**Flood Risk Management Plan: Highland and Argyll Local Plan District Consultation**](https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/evidence-and-flooding/highland-argyll-local-plan-district-consultation/)’. The flood zones which are formally part of the consultation are those which are affected today and not those with a significant future impact risk (like Tiree).

# 16. Use of Scarinish phone box

The Scarinish phone box is owned by TCC and is currently used by the food project as a community cupboard for storing of non-perishable goods.

JH asked councillors if they were happy for [**Solar**](https://www.solartiree.com/) to continue this, as the ‘tenant’ as they have changed status to an independent organisation. No objections were raised, and Solar will continue as is.

# 17. Meetings with the Hebridean Trust about the future of Hynish

JH informed those present that he had a meeting with Mike and Paul Stanfield with one of the Hebridean Trust directors as well as a subsequent meeting with Tiree Trust and Hebridean Trust. Meetings will carry on over winter.

* Efforts are being made to quickly establish a discussion on bringing Hynish into community ownership in some way. These efforts will look at bringing together community groups on Tiree to determine options and way forward.
* There are surveys underway at the moment regarding state and use of the buildings.
* PM indicate that much work has already been done and information is available on reinstating the buildings to habitable standards.
* A member of the public expressed the importance of not losing Hynish to private ownership as it is so important to Tiree Heritage and thanked TCC for all the work done to date.

# 18. AOCB

* Remembrance Day Service will take place on Saturday 13th November 21. Notification will be made to the public.
* GMG informed those present that West Highland Housing Associations Air Sourced Heat Pump solution for Pier View is still under discussion to determine costs, funding has still to be sourced and this project may take some time to develop.
* PM informed those present that TCDT intend to hold a fireworks night on 5th November. It will be held at the Rural Centre, firepits will replace a bonfire. Public notice should be going out in the next few days.

# 19. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 10th November at 7pm.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 9pm