**MINUTES OF TIREE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Wednesday 8 December 2021 7pm**

1. **Present**: Dr John Holliday (chair), Iona Campbell, Gerard McGoogan and John Patience
2. **Apologies**: Phyl Meyer
3. **Welcome**: JH welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologised for the lack of Gaelic translation.
4. **Declarations of interest**: none received
5. **Minutes of the last meeting**: Matters arising included the EE mast at Cornaigmore, which has finally been commissioned. This will improve speeds in the west end of the island for subscribers to that company. We wrote to Melissa, our Governance Officer at ABC, saying that we were happy to continue with online or hybrid meetings with the occasional in-person meeting. West Highland Housing Association have commissioned further studies about the heating in the houses at Pier View. We have written to the Trust about helping to re-establish the Tiree Transport Forum. GM gave a report on the broadband voucher scheme. Tiree is scheduled to be completed by 2024. However, the voucher scheme excludes houses built after the contract was signed. The minutes were proposed by GM and seconded by JP.
6. **Reports on meetings**: GM reported on the Tiree Users Harbour Committee. There had been incident in the summer with a scallop diver in the water around the pier at ferry time. The passenger shelter has been removed because it was too close to the ropes. There will be a consultation on where the new one will go at the beginning of next year. The siting is proving difficult because passengers need to be kept away from the roadway. He also reported on the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Community Planning Group. It was well attended. CalMac plans to increase the costs of carrying motorhomes to bring it up to freight. five new ferries are planned, including two for Islay.
7. **Report on the last CalMac Community Board meeting** **by Donnie MacInnes**: Operation Neptune is a broad review of the structure of CalMac and CMAL. Tiree will get a new marshalling area next year and a new terminal building in a couple of years. It is possible that CalMac could provide a minibus service up and down the pier as they do in Uig if the shelter cannot be built. CalMac have recruited 120 people in the last few years, and are actively recruiting on the islands. New terms and conditions have been proposed. An important change is to introduce a cancellation fee. If you cancel your booking 24 hours before travel you will lose the whole booking fee. Exemptions will be cancelled hospital appointments, bereavements, traffic accidents or breakdown. Consultation will finish on 6 January with new T&C introduced on 1 April. **We will contact Don MacKillop about the consultation on terms and conditions.** It was pointed out that the blue bus had originally been brought to the island to carry people up and down the pier. But it was not well used and it was prevented from turning at the pier end due to health and safety concerns. There has been very little consultation on future timetables. Setting up the transport forum again, possibly with Coll, would give us more leverage.
8. **Correspondence**:
* We received two letters about the number of agency staff at Taigh an Rudha. This is likely to be very expensive, which might put the existence of the Home in jeopardy. **JH will write to the chair of the Health and Social Care Partnership**
* The two churches have agreed to take over the running of the Remembrance Day service from next year
* CalMac are offering a 50% discount on coach fares for primary and secondary school buses
* We have written in support of the Rural Centre land purchase
* We had written to the Highlands and Islands Patients Travel Scheme. The reply read: ‘NHS Highland strive to settle all payments to clients and suppliers within ten working days of receiving the claim/invoice, should this patient continue to experience long delays in receiving settlement please contact me directly with their details and I will look into the reason why’
* We had a comment about the replacement of E5 fuel and small engines. The new fuel tanks will only stock E10. You can buy E5 in Oban at the moment, but it will be phased out eventually
1. **Education Change programme**: Argyll and Bute Council propose to group schools into clusters under one executive headteacher. TCC needs to do a consultation. Jen Skinner reported that there was no chair of the Parent Council at the moment. Tiree High School had a bad inspection report and the Oban High School head was brought in three years ago on a temporary basis to improve things. She welcomed the involvement of TCC in this consultation. The Parent Council has not had any communication from ABC. **JH will send his copy of the consultation to Jenn.** We agreed that the school was fundamentally important to the island. We decided to survey the community using Survey Monkey in conjunction with the Parent Council. **JH, IC and Jenn will meet to produce a draft survey which we would circulate among the two bodies**. **Jenn will find out if a TCC councillor could come to the next Parent Council meeting on 12 January.** A MOP said that she felt that there was too much VC teaching, and she preferred having a resident headteacher on the island.
2. **Tiree’s carbon footprint**: TREL is applying for money to look into this. It was pointed out that the Tiree economy is very reliant on ferries and planes, and livestock production. We should be careful in how we handle this; certain carbon admissions are necessary to make a living on this island. **TCC will write to the Trust to support TREL’s application**.
3. **Short-term lets licensing scheme**: this has not been enacted yet.
4. **Planning**: four applications have been received. None appear to fall within the remit of TCC planning policy.
5. **AOCB**: there was no other business

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Dr John Holliday