**TIREE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**JANUARY MEETING**

**Wednesday 12 January 2022 7pm**

1. **Present**: Dr John Holliday (chair), Phyl Meyer, Iona Campbell and Gerard McGoogan. Iain mac ‘Ille Chiar provided the simultaneous translation.
2. **Apologies**: John Patience and Mark Vale
3. **Welcome**: PM introduced the Gaelic interpretation function
4. **Declarations of interest**: PM is the general manager of the Trust when we discuss CIT
5. **Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**:

* JH has written to the chair of the Health and Social Care Partnership about the number of agency staff working in the Home. She will set up a meeting with Donald Watt, a manager
* JH has written to the manager of the Tiree Trust to support an application researching the carbon footprint of the island

The minutes were proposed by GM and seconded by PM.

1. **Correspondence**:

* Loganair have asked Transport Scotland to reduce the number of flights to Tiree because of low bookings. JH had talked to the doctor, local Loganair staff and the school. We agreed to put the afternoon flights on hold for the next few weeks apart from Friday. We would get the cancelled flights back in the summer
* ABC (Argyll and Bute Council) Shopfront Improvement Scheme is available

1. **The future of online or virtual Community Council meetings**: ABC has agreed in principle that this should now be possible. They have sent us a revised Scheme of Establishment, which has been advertised on the website for a week. We propose that one or two of our public meetings should be face-to-face (including our AGM). We agreed with the updated Scheme of Establishment. **JH will write to Melissa Stewart at ABC to this effect**.
2. **Update on broadband roll-out to rural areas**: Rhoda Meek, chair of CIT (Tiree Broadband) spoke in Gaelic about this. Tiree Broadband (TB) was established in 2005 as a non-profit-making business with a board of volunteers and a part-time employee. At that time, there was poor supply of broadband on the island and TB became the ‘provider of last resort’ to those with no other supply. It would therefore be a happy day if there was no use for the service. At the last count there were 275 customers, more than were originally expected. TB are negotiating with Openreach about the roll-out of R100. The current date for this is 2024 but this is likely to slip. TB is trying to become registered as a provider for the voucher scheme. This means fibre will be brought to most townships if not the house itself. It should be noted that an upgrade in the service will ned to be paid for by increased subscription charges. Negotiations are slow before the March deadline and the prospects are still uncertain. She thanked TCC for their lobbying efforts on this project. GM showed a map of the island. Not all properties will be eligible for a R100 voucher. New builds will not be part of the voucher scheme. There are around 350 premises that don’t have good broadband, half of which are supplied by TB. Who should be fighting for the non-TB customers who do not have good speeds? RM says that TB is fighting for the whole island. The Community Fibre Partnership may help in the next phase. But she said that she would be delighted if TCC took on lobbying for the non-TB customers to aim for a ‘full fibre island’. **We agreed to set up a joint meeting in the next few weeks between CIT (and the Tiree Trust) and TCC to this end, including meetings with Openreach and political contacts.**
3. **School Consultation**: ABC are proposing that schools in an area will be grouped together under an executive head teacher. Most schools would no longer have their own head teacher. TCC, together with the Parent Council, has assembled a survey to help us answer this consultation. We have used Surveymonkey to good effect in the past and a big advantage is that it allows people to speak freely. We could also hold a public meeting with officials from the Education Department. We agreed to work with the Parent Council on this. **We agreed to set up a public meeting with ABC followed by an online survey.** There may be some scope for parent bodies on Mull and Tiree to work together.
4. **Ferries**: the Sunday boat has been cancelled for the next few weeks to create a bit a slack in the timetable with 20% of the crews down with Covid. LOTI will replace the Clansman soon and there will be two Saturday boats. CalMac have provided an excellent service despite this. The re-instatement of the pier waiting room is important, but its safe siting is presenting problems. The new ticketing system has been delayed to the early summer. Prices for larger camper vans have gone up 50%, which is causing some anxiety on the island. A new cancellation fee may be on the horizon, but this may be delayed too. We will ask CalMac management about this when the Covid situation settles down.
5. **Planning applications:** we have been asked to make it easier to find planning applications on the ABC website. We have put a link on our website.
6. **AOCB:**

* **Dentist**: there was an enquiry about the current service. **JH will write to John Lyon**
* **An update on Hynish**: discussions are continuing
* **Gaelic translation**: we asked for feedback. Connecting to the translation service is more difficult on an iPad

The meeting ended at 8.45pm