**MINUTES**

**TIREE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**9 March 2022 7pm**

**By Zoom**

1. **Welcome**: in particular to Iain mac ‘Ille Chiar, our translator
2. **Present**: Dr John Holliday (chair), Phyl Meyer, Iona Campbell and John Patience. There were seven members of the public.
3. **Chair’s opening statement**: ‘Before we begin, I would like to put into words what many of us are thinking. We will be talking tonight about matters that usually seem important to us. But there is a war in Europe, and our thoughts are with communities across Ukraine who are living, and dying, in conditions of unimaginable horror.’
4. **Apologies**: none. JH noted that Argyll and Bute councillors had attended just three out of ten meetings over the last year.
5. **Declarations of interest**: PM declared that he is on the Parent Council.
6. **Minutes of last month’s meeting**: these were proposed as accurate by PM and seconded by JP.
7. **Matters arising**:

* Respite care was once again available at the Home. Claire MacInnes had written to tell us that applications should go through Allina Langley. Every application would be looked at, but a respite place would only be offered after assessment, and it could be offered in a different residential home
* There had been no reply to our letter to Jenni Minto, MSP, about heating systems at Pier View
* We had written to Robert Thorburn (Openreach) and Jenni Minto to support Tiree Broadband with the R100 voucher scheme deadline
* We had written to Lawrence Kenney at Transport Scotland about the huge hike in camper van charges above 6.3 m

1. **Correspondence**:

* John Gunderson had written to the Scottish Government about the poor ferry service. Their reply listed all the new ferries that were ordered and promised that the service would be better in future
* A correspondent wondered if a Ukrainian family could be housed on Tiree. The Ukrainian Humanitarian Sponsorship Pathway was complex and time-consuming. It involved charities raising £9000 and being vetted by Resetuk.org We will advertise to see if there was enough support to make this work. Accommodation is likely to be a limiting factor. We also agreed that we would write to Pritti Patel and our MP to complain about the process
* An enquiry about Ukrainian refugee collection: the Tiree Baptist Church had organised a very successful coffee morning which raised over £900. This went to DEC. There will be another one next week, but money is better than ‘things’
* Clout! A festival of fabric and objects made from bog cotton is being held on the island 25-7 June
* Philip Knowles has offered to sit on a Tiree Transport Forum
* There was a query about building access steps to Soroby graveyard. The local Council staff thought this would be difficult. They are re-surfacing the access path this summer, and the entrance may be moved to the Balemartine side in the future anyway
* We enquired about late payments under the A&B Patient Travel Claim Scheme. There had been a mix-up with signatures, and this was now being dealt with
* Hynish statement from the Tiree Trust: ‘A positive and productive initial meeting has been held between the Hebridean Trust and Tiree Community Development Trust, with some next steps agreed and further meetings to come in the near future to explore possible options to secure a community-owned future for Hynish. Future meetings are expected to involve a wider group of stakeholders and those interested in helping to achieve that outcome. Further details will be published via the usual community channels in due course.’

1. **Report on meetings**:

* Coll Community Council: following a serious fire last year, their main issue was resilience, with fire service and coastguard in attendance. Their hybrid meeting was variably successful. Online participants could only see and hear part of the meeting in their hall. PM said that the Tiree Trust now has good equipment for hybrid meetings. This could be borrowed by other groups
* Mull Community Council: Jenni Minto was there. We should invite her too, sometime. They have huge problems with seasonal labour and housing for seasonal workers. A teacher has resigned because she could not find a house. PM said that the Tiree school had appointed two new staff and they would be looking for accommodation, too. No A&B councillors were present, but Jim Lynch said that he would start sending a monthly report to Mull CC. A&B Council elections are on 5 May
* Iona Community Council: they use this meeting to present reports from all the island organisations like the hall and the National Trust

1. **Ferries**:

* The *Clansman* needs extra work in drydock. The winter timetable has been extended by a week. *LOTI* also needs repairs next week
* CalMac are looking to bring in extra tonnage on a temporary basis, but this is proving very difficult
* Ar Turas, the new ticketing system, has been delayed and the team responsible will come and talk to us next month instead. CalMac’s first-come-first-served system may not be legal after all. It looks more likely that next year there will be a phased release of tickets. PM asked if there could be extra discretion for emergency service workers. Enercon engineers have been unable to come to the island for months to repair Tilley, costing the island thousands of pounds. We will raise this with them
* The Coll Transport Forum will be on 12 March. Donnie MacInnes and JH will attend. CalMac need to support the whole island economy and not just tourism. Working with Coll should be a good thing, but we need our own Transport Forum
* Coll have suggested that next winter’s Sunday ferry would leave at 9 or 10, rather than 0715. The hauliers are happy with this change, although a later start would mean that the Royal Mail will miss its connection
* Compensation from CalMac for being stuck in Oban due to weather when the larger ferry is stuck in dry dock due to mechanical issues. This may be a viable claim. If we are asked to support this, we would do so. Why is it that Loganair appears to be more generous if they can’t transport you? Maybe Brexit will take away some of these consumer protections

1. **School**: IC presented the results on the Collective Leadership Model. The full results will be on the TCC website:

* At least 79 people had replied to the survey
* The majority (56%) thought that the Council Collective Leadership Model would not help teachers at Tiree High School teach
* The majority (77%) thought that the model would not help pupils at Tiree High School learn
* There was a 50:50 split as to whether the model would increase the range of courses offered
* A majority thought it would increase young people leaving island
* A majority (50%) thought it would decrease funding to the school
* A majority (38%) thought it would decrease the amount of Gaelic spoken on Tiree
* A large majority wanted to see less VC teaching
* A substantial majority (60%) though that the Collective Leadership Model would not be good for the Tiree school
* PM said that we should reflect the breadth of opinion from the survey
* There were no further responses from the meeting

We will write to the Council with our response.

1. **School**: an Argyll and Bute consultation is set to start with the Parent Council over making the interim shared headship with Oban permanent. This could be as early as next month.
2. **Planning**: JP presented the one current planning application over the last month. TCC would not comment on this. JP, JH, PM, Brodie Sim (from the Trust) and Susan Lamont (from TRD) hadmet to discuss a Tiree Place Plan. The Trust Growth Plan Consultation will be done by May, and there may some overlap with any Place Plan. He had talked to Sybil Johnson from A&B. We really need to wait for the start on consultation on LDP3, which will be in about two years. It was worth making a start, but a Place Plan was really for 2024. This was therefore something the next community council could consider in November. The LDP regulations consultation has been done. **The NPF4 consultation is still to be completed.**
3. **Constitution**: we have sent a revised constitution to A&B Council to allow us to continue with online meetings.
4. **Queen’s Platinum Jubilee** celebration on 5 June. We decided to encourage another group to organise this, rather than do this ourselves. An *ad hoc* group could set themselves up quite easily to take this forward.
5. **Tiree Community Garden**: Gerard McGoogan has stood down, but not before he secured £2500 grant from the Coop as a community food project for raised beds and 200 trees. We decided to advertise to see if anyone else was interested in taking this project forward. The land belongs to Tiree Community Business. There are landscape architect plans. We do have to report back to the Scottish Land Fund at some point, and a community garden was promised. There is a water supply on site. The Barra community garden is successful because it has a champion. A couple of members of the public expressed an interest. We needed to get some scaffold boards and topsoil.
6. **Phone box project**: JP reported that Scarinish and Balephuil were almost finished. The hinge in Scarinish needed to be repaired. 2022 should see another two completed out of Heylipol, Mannal and Caolas.
7. **AOCB**: there were slightly fewer members of the public present, possibly due to a marginally late advertisement.

Dr John Holliday 11 March 2022