**MINUTES**

**TIREE COMMUNITY COUNCIL JUNE PUBLIC MEETING**

**7.30pm 8 June 2022**

**An Talla and by Zoom**

1. **Present**:Dr John Holliday (chair) and Iona Campbell (secretary) were present in An Talla; Phy Meyer (treasurer) and John Patience were present online. Councillor Andrew Kain also attended remotely
2. **Apologies**: Councillor Willie Hume
3. **Welcome**: JH welcomed AK, who is a member of the administration, policy lead on Roads and Infrastructure, chair of Argyll and Bute Harbour Board and a member of the Community Services Committee. His interest is in bringing the islands together. Bringing in a spare ferry for the network would be a good first step. The four A&B councillors have not yet met to decide how to divide up the work of the ward. JH also introduced Natalia Jejer, Settlement Project Officer with Argyll and Bute Council
4. **Conflicts of interest**: PM is the general manager of the Tiree Trust and is a member of the Parent Council
5. **Minutes of the last meeting**: PM had written to the retiring A&B councillors.
6. **Matters arising**:
* Heating at Pier view: JP has talked to John MacDonald at WHHA. The architect’s report has been received, and JP expects it soon
* Island Bonds: we have not heard about any further consultation on Tiree about these, and yet we read that the first grants are imminent. There are around 100 grants available, and our anxiety is that Tiree is being left behind. **IC will write to ask about how this programme is being rolled out**
1. **Correspondence:**
* Delays in connecting new builds to the grid with a meter. SSE have had to give the contract for installing meters to contractors, in our case Ovo. Their workforce on the mainland is reluctant to come out to the islands because the job takes so long, even though there are engineers on the islands who are qualified to do the work. **JH will write to Ovo to point out the difficulties**
* The census returns for Tiree have been low. This is possibly because there are a lot of second homes on the island. We did a social media blitz on this. The Census wanted a list of second houses in five days before the deadline, and we were not able to provide this
* The fences and gates around Scarinish ‘town centre’ are looking a bit tired. The cattle grids are very noisy. **JH will write to the Coop, Bank, the hotel, A&BC and the estate to assemble a coalition to repair these**
* Loganair have written to us to lobby HIAL for lighting to the second runway**. JH will do this**
* We have written to Scottish Water to find out if there are any restrictions to new builds because of a lack of mains water supplies
* We have written to ALIEnergy to support a funding application
* Melissa Stewart, our A&BC Governance Officer, has written to say that the content of streamed meetings remains the property of the community council
* Louise Connor, from the Education Department, has turned down our application for an Island Community Impact Assessment about the appointment of a new Executive Head Teacher:

*We note that the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 places a requirement on the Council to prepare an ICIA in relation to any “policy, strategy or service”, which, in the Council’s opinion, is likely to have an effect on an island community which is significantly different from its effect on other communities (including other island communities) in the Education Authority’s area.  With that in mind, recruitment of staff is an operational matter for the Council, as Education Authority, and not a matter of strategy or policy. As such, the Council maintains its view that an ICIA is not required in this particular case on the basis that the recruitment of staff by the Education Authority is a matter which is purely operational in nature for the Education Authority and not a matter of policy or strategy. For this reason, we hold the view that the relevant provisions of the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 do not apply in this particular instance*.

**We agreed that we would appeal against this decision, but we should only do so under the instruction of the Parent Council**

1. **Natalia Jejer** isSettlement Project Support Officer with A&BC (there are colleagues in Uist and Highland), her pilot post partly funded by HIE. She lives on Jura in a mobile home. She covers four areas, including Coll and Tiree. The post is for twelve months, the first three months of which will be spent on background research. She will contact organisations on Tiree, including the Tiree Trust, as well as individuals on the island.
2. **Ferries**:
* Cancellation charges survey: 75% of our Surveymonkey poll were against the proposed changes. We have replied to CalMac and our reply is on our website. Donnie MacInnes tells us that the CalMac Community Board has also written opposing the new T&Cs
* Islander priority systems: Bute, Coll and Mull have all held consultations recently asking whether the current first-come-first-served contract insisted on by Transport Scotland was fair. AK said that the present system discriminates against islanders, who often travel at short notice and are faced with fully-booked ferries at peak periods. This is not an argument with CalMac, but with the Scottish Government. It would be better to act in lockstep with other island communities. **We agreed that we would do a similar survey.** The Coll survey was simple: should islanders have priority, yes or no? The Mull and Bute surveys were more complex, asking questions about occupation and recent travel experience. Mull and Bute asked about the ‘Samso system’ where islanders have a ‘green card’ which gives them priority access to the ferry. Another way is the phased released of tickets, with some tickets held back until closer to the time of sailing. **We decided to keep the survey relatively simple**
* Report from the recent Coll Transport Forum meeting with Joe Reade from the Mull and Iona Ferry Committee: a possible Kilchoan-Tobermory-Coll-Tiree ferry was discussed. This must be in addition to the Oban boat and must not distract us from our principal ferry route. This would have merit for tourists, businesses, abattoir users, councillors, the Mull economy and scholars and would give us added resilience. However, fuel costs are high, and the ferry might be very expensive to run all year round. **We agreed to meet Richard Hadfield from Transport Scotland for an initial discussion**
1. **Report from Jack Green-Morgan from the Tiree Trust**: there had been a very successful consultation exercise in An Talla with 100 attendees. We commended the Trust for the way this was organised. There were also 248 online responses. The main themes were housing, ferries, roads, cost of living, education, economic opportunity, climate change and recycling. The Trust is currently analysing the responses and will be contact many of the respondents for further discussions. The final development plan will be published in the ‘early autumn’. There has been a separate meeting with Gaelic stakeholders about the development of the language on Tiree.
2. **Planning applications**: there have been three applications, but none that needed our attention.
3. **AOCB**:
* An Oban Community Council meeting was hacked by pornographic material. Our current policy is that you have to identify yourself only when you contribute
* Long-term parking in the middle of Scarinish. **We will make enquiries about this**
* **Acceptability of the hybrid meeting system:** there was general agreement that it had worked well. Some people do prefer a face-to-face meeting. Our thanks to Jack for setting up the equipment and to the Trust for the hardware
1. **Date of next meeting:** the second Wednesday in August.

Dr John Holliday

9.6.22