**TIREE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**APRIL PUBLIC MEETING DRAFT MINUTES**

**7pm 12 April 2023**

**Hybrid meeting in the Trust’s Conference Room, Crossapol and by Zoom**

1. **Attendance**: Phyl Meyer (chair), Dr John Holliday and Tim Arkless. Argyll and Bute Councillors Amanda Hampsey, Jim Lynch and Willie Hume were present in person. Jenni Minto MSP (who had to leave at 8.15) and Cllr Andrew Kain attended remotely. 24 members of the public attended in person and 14 remotely. The agenda was changed to allow Jenni Minto more time as she had another meeting to attend. PM said that this was the first time all four councillors and the MSP had attended a TCC meeting. He thanked them all.
2. **Apologies**: Jacqui Bennettand Frances Khetrat
3. **Declarations of conflicts of interest**: there were none
4. **Questions for Jenni Minto, Minister of Public Health and Women’s Health**:
* **Fishing:**Jenni Minto explained that, as a minister in the Scottish Government, she sat under cabinet collective responsibility. She was therefore unable to lay out her own position. But she will write a very clear letter to the Cabinet Secretary with the views she heard tonight. She had already set up a meeting of Argyll and Bute fishermen with the government. She encouraged everyone interested to fill in the consultation. This scoping exercise is very wide. The consultation will determine what goes into the legislation, which will be laid first before parliament and then before a committee. This will call for evidence both through a questionnaire and in person. There are two more stages, at which amendments can be introduced. This process takes about two years. Members of the public said that the HPMA proposal would adversely affect tourism and crofting, as well as the decision to move to Tiree. It was described as the ‘Clearances Mark 2’. Jenni re-stated that the government was responding to a climate emergency. WH said that the 10% figure comes from a European policy. A member of the public asked how a proposal that was ‘obviously devastating to much of the community’ had been brought forward without the ‘research having been done first’. ‘This has been done backwards.’ It was explained there are a lot of part-time fishermen on Tiree, for whom fishing income is vital. Another member of the public said that islanders were more concerned about their environment than environmentalists on the mainland. The pollution affecting our waters ‘washes up on our beaches every day’. This comes from elsewhere. Yet it is islanders who are being ‘punished by this legislation’. This proposal will be ‘terminal’ for coastal communities. The process also feels top-down, and the only way the Tiree community feels it can respond is to reject it completely. The HPMA flies in the face of the National Islands Plan. The point was made that the uncertainty created by the consultation is already affecting inward investment in renewable energy and aquaculture. It has also already reduced the value of local fishing licences and boats. Jenni will pass on a request to the Cabinet Secretary for a visit to Tiree. There was concern that the consultation would not be done in a transparent manner. Jenni pointed out that most responses will be published. It was stated that the HPMA consultation was difficult to fill in. It was also stated that many people on Tiree did not want HPMAs at all and that the Scottish Government should scrap the whole thing and start again from scratch
* **Ferry disruption**: Jenni now has a weekly meeting with Robbie Drummond, the Chief Executive of CalMac. The *Alfred* was going to add additional capacity to the fleet. The point was made that tourists with a holiday home booking were going to get preference on the Advanced Standby List. TCC was against this. Jenni said that other islands have argued the other way, but she will write to CalMac to say that one size does not fit all islands. PM said that in future a proportion, possibly 10%, of car deck spaces will be held back until, say, 72 hours before sailing. This pilot will run for year and involve Coll, Tiree and Mull. It was pointed out the ferry replacement plan was providing tonnage new for other routes, despite the fact that the Oban-Coll-Tiree route was so long and that the islands’ piers were so exposed. These were ‘desperate, desperate times’, and it feels as though Tiree’s voice is not listened to. We need more second-hand tonnage. Jenni will pass this on to CMAL. TCC has circulated a form allowing business and individuals to submit lost income and time caused by ferry disruptions
* **Distant Islands Allowance**: could this apply to benefits payments as well as those in work? Jenni felt that this would be very expensive, but would take the thought away
* **Shortage of care workers**: this is a national problem. Jenni will pass Tiree’s concern about this on to the chief executive of the Health and Social Care Partnership. One part of this problem is the shortage of housing. It was suggested that the flat over the Eventide Home could be re-commissioned. AH, as the new chair of the IJB (the HSCP), said that she would take this up with the new head of HSCP estates
* **Housing shortage**: too few people have put their names on the housing list, partly because they know that there are no houses to be had. However, more people have now entered their names, and ACHA may be considering new projects on Tiree. The Tiree Trust is currently doing a housing survey. The lack of housing was also a problem with teacher recruitment
1. **Minutes of last meeting**:these were accepted**.** Proposed PM, seconded TA.
2. **Matters arising**: the banking administration has been done; the proposed meeting of Coll, Tiree, Mull and Iona community councilswill hopefully happen soon. **PM will do a Doodle poll**
3. **Correspondence**:
* Cables for the R100 programme will be laid soon. It had been pointed out that the island needs to make sure that we take full advantage of this
* There is a Repopulation Zone Survey from Milly Leggett, the Settlement Project Support Officer for Argyll and Bute Council. **JH will put this on the TCC website**
* Transport Scotland also has a survey on smart and integrated ticketing on public transport. **JH will fill this in**
* JH has written to CalMac about the problems faced by runners attending the Tiree 10k
* Police report for Tiree: 4 calls for service over the month of March, 1) Intruder Alarm (1 Call); 2) Assist Member of Public (1 Call); 3) Utilities Incident (1 Call); and 4) Tasking Incident (1 Call). Of the calls that we received, this translated to 2 crimes being recorded
1. **Appointment of new co-opted member:** Frances Khetrat’s applicationwas agreed unanimously.
2. **Reports of meetings:**TCC had metAngus Campbell, chair of CalMac Community Board about Project Neptune. Donnie MacInnes reported that most communities visited had been in favour of merging CalMac and CMAL; JH and TA had met Brendan O’Hara MP. He had promised to support our opposition to the TPMA.
3. **Shelter at pier**: this is due for delivery week commencing 12 June. It will be sited on the old pier head.
4. **Argyll and Bute councillors’ reports**: JL is chair of the Financial Inclusion Advice Group of Argyll and Bute Council. Solar has received money from this. He encouraged people to claim for as many benefits as they can. Tiree Trust has staff to help with this. Maybe the new chair of ACHA would come to a TCC meeting. AK had attended the Convention of Islands, which is very much against the HPMA. Pressure needs to be kept up on this front. He is chair of the Marine Infrastructure and Transport Liaison Group. TCC has been invited to this: ‘If all the islands can come together, they will speak with a louder voice.’ AH said that three teachers have been appointed. A member of the public asked why the headteacher’s house beside the school was not being used for accommodation for these new teachers.
5. **Planning**: there were no applications that needed attention from TCC
6. **AOCB**: the end date of the CalMac summer timetable has not been decided. This was going to impact the Tiree Wave Classic in October.
7. **Date and location of next meeting**: this will be 10 May and will be online.

The meeting ended at 9.20pm

Dr John Holliday 14 April 2023