**MINUTES**

**TIREE COMMUNITY COUNCIL JUNE PUBLIC MEETING**

**7pm 14 June 2023**

**Trust Offices, Crossapol, and by Zoom**

* 1. **Present:** Phyl Meyer (chair), Dr John Holliday, Jacqui Bennett and Frances Khetrat were present in person, with Tim Arkless online. Cllr Amanda Hampsey and three members of the public were present online. The meeting had only been advertised on Facebook a day earlier, which could account for the lower turnout than usual.
  2. **Apologies**: none
  3. **Declarations of interest**: PM is a manager of the Tiree Community Development Trust and a member of the Parent Council. JB is board member of TCDT.
  4. **Minutes of the last meeting**: these were accepted. Proposed JB, seconded FK
  5. **Matters arising:**
* The Cabinet Secretary’s invitation to Tiree had been acknowledged, but there had been no reply
* PM was still waiting to hear about an application for a roadside mirror
* **PM will contact the roads department when the timetable for the construction of the Crossapol business units is confirmed**
* The details of the banked flights had been publicised in An Tirisdeach
* Transport of refrigerant R32: JH had contacted the Islands Team (no reply), the engineer concerned (the problem concerns larger installations and some servicing), Joe Reade (the chair of the Mull and Iona Ferry Committee) and Cpt Donnie MacInnes. The last says that CalMac is able to apply for a derogation for dangerous goods. **JH will contact the relevant officers in CalMac about this**
  1. **Correspondence**:
* The Scottish Government has held a resilience meeting about the lack of rain this summer. **JH will contact Scottish Water to find out the situation with regards of water supplies on Tiree**
* A dental clinic was cancelled last week, as the service in Argyll is under pressure. The service to Tiree has improved recently. **JH will contact the dental management**
* TCC has had two enquiries about renovating the phone boxes at Heylipol and Balevullin
* We have had correspondence concerning the recent surgery announcement about requests for repeat prescriptions being confined to emails or in-person notes. **JH will write to the surgery**
* Alasdair Allan MSP and Kate Forbes MSP have both written, thanking us for our letters of support on HPMAs
* SSEN has announced a re-opening of a Resilience Fund. **JH will forward to the Trust Cruas team**
* FlyHighland, a not-for-profit airline, had cancelled their visit to Tiree
  1. **Reports of meetings**:
* Forum of Argyll Islands Community Councils: community councillors from Luing, Coll, Tiree and Iona met recently to share their experiences, mainly in their dealings with Argyll and Bute Council. Mull CC had accepted our invitation but had not been able to attend. There were different local issues, but common themes—poor community consultation; poor appreciation of the difficulties of island life and use of the Islands Act; and frequent use of Freedom Information requests when asked questions. The meeting was very supportive and we will meet again with a larger invitation list
* Scottish Community Councils Conference: this was organised by the West Lothian Forum of Community Councils, and was attended by 50 delegates. West Lothian Council supports the Forum financially and has a twice-yearly meeting where the community councils set the agenda (in contrast with the situation in Argyll and Bute). Britain is the most centrally governed country in Europe. There was an agreement to set up a national body
* Forthcoming meetings: Ferry Users Group meeting on 20 June. TA is unable to go, and PM will attend
  1. **Ferry disruption**: a reminder of the ongoing TCC survey. PM has written to Donna Lockhart expressing our regret at the poor service and the difficulties surrounding the new booking system launch. We agreed to ask SG for compensation for affected islands. This has already been rejected by SG, but **JH will contact other island communities.** The pilot for the retention of some space on the car deck for those travelling at short notice has been deferred until next year because of the company’s current difficulties.
  2. **Finalising beach signage for dog waste and campfires**: we agreed the wording for the signs, paid for by TCC. They will be 20 x 20 cm, aluminium di-bond. **AH offered to ask ABC if they would fund this**. It was pointed out that fires are currently discouraged due to the dry conditions. The lead time for the signs were several weeks and it may have rained by then. TA proposed larger signs for Balevullin. **TA will work on these with PM.**
  3. **Forthcoming housing meeting with housing associations and Argyll and Bute Council**: this will happen on 23 June. ABC has declared a housing emergency and are very supportive. Anyone on Tiree who is declared homeless is offered accommodation in Campbeltown or Lochgilphead. We agreed that this is unacceptable. PM and JH will attend the meeting. There was a suggestion that we should support owners of second homes to convert their properties to long-term lets. There might be funding to help this. ABC has increased their empty homes team. ABC will soon be considering the introduction of a double council tax for second homes. ABC is not currently considering setting up a short-term let licensing system.
  4. **Tigh a Rudha Redesign project:** this project will develop a TireeCommunity Care Hub with five permanent beds, two respite and two medical beds*.* Rooms will have en suite facilities. Funding is fromthe Scottish Government’s Islands Programme (£450,000) with £650,000 from ABC and HSCP. JH and PM had attended a very good meeting with the project team. AH reassured the meeting that residents will not be decanted during the works.
  5. **Annual Engagement meeting with the Council’s Executive Leadership Team:** PM and JH will attend a meeting with the ABC senior executive team on 26 June. We agreed four questions to submit. **JH will send these to Melissa**
  6. **Proposed Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill:** there was a discussion as tohow this might affect Tiree. AH asked what was the community feeling about this on the island. TCC would have to do a thorough community consultation if this progresses.
  7. **Planning applications for the month**: there were two applications—a new structure at the Golf Ball and a new dwelling in Caolas. Neither needed input from TCC.
  8. **AOCB**:
* Rubbish at the pier. This was an issue, particularly for businesses at the pier. ABC had withdrawn bins at the pier because they were mis-used. **AH would look into this**
* The Trust was going to examine applications from the school for applications to the Windfall Fund for school trips more closely in future. The Trust felt that some of these ‘trips’ were a consequence of the joint working of Tiree and Oban High Schools and should be met from the Education Department budget and not from community funding
  1. **Date of next meeting**: 9 August by Zoom

Dr J Holliday 15 June 2023