**MINUTES**

**TIREE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (TCC)**

**AUGUST PUBLIC MEETING**

**7pm 9 August 2023**

**By Zoom**

* 1. **Present**: Phyl Meyer (chair), Dr John Holliday, Tim Arkless; Argyll and Bute Council (ABC) Cllrs Amanda Hampsey and Andrew Kain. Four members of the public were also on the Zoom call, with another 105 views on the Facebook feed in real time. This had been viewed 273 times by 13.8.23
  2. **Apologies**: Jacqui Bennett; ABC Cllrs Jim Lynch and Willie Hume
  3. **Declarations of interest**: JH declared that his son has a short-term let (with reference to the Visitor Levy)
  4. **Minutes of the last meeting**:these were passed as an accurate record. Proposed PM and seconded TA.
  5. **Matters arising**:
* The Minister has still not replied to her invitation to discuss HPMAs on Tiree
* PM had agreed to contact the road department if the new business units in Crossapol required road equipment, but this is no longer going to be the case
* JH had initiated a correspondence with Scottish Water over water resilience on Tiree during the dry spell in June. We had received a fairly bland reply, but it had rained constantly since
* JH had been in correspondence with the surgery about prescription ordering; phone requests will still be accepted
* JH had seen the dental service management. They assured him that the Tiree dental service is being prioritised, but that recruitment of dentists was an issue
* Six beach signs have been put up. One was removed by the crofter concerned due to poor siting. The Balevullin sign was not put up because of the number of signs already there. **PM will put one up there**, **too**
* Waste bins at the pier. AH had put in this request to ABC but had not had a reply. **She will try again**
* PM reported two dangerous road corners that would benefit from a mirror. **He will send details to AH and AK**
* The Taigh an Rubha redevelopment project: this continues. There has been some discussion with the doctors on the number of long-term beds required in the future
* The ‘digital hub’ installation in the Trust office has been delayed to September
* Two volunteers have come forward to renovate the Heylipol and Balevullin phone boxes
* Community garden update: meetings continue; there is a Facebook page
  1. **Correspondence**:
* The Baugh phone box is broken: **PM has raised this job with BT**
* Canvassing job opportunity, 11 September to 23 October at £10.58/hour to visit those who have not completed annual canvas forms
* Police report: 17 calls in July, with one drink driving crime
* Ferry: there appears to be no car spaces on the Saturday boats until October. Concerns have previously been raised that the new online booking can say a boat is full when it is not
* The Colonsay Festival means that the Tiree ferry on 14 September will be leaving Oban at 0600 and Tiree at 1020
* The CalMac summer 2024 timetable is due to start soon, but we have not heard the details yet
* SSEN are going to put in a new electric cable across the Gunna Sound and want a meeting with TCC. AH asked if this meant that the capacity of the connector was going to be increased. PM had asked SSEN the same question. AH would like to attend. **JH will forward meeting details to AH**
* JH had written to Robin Currie and Jim Lynch asking to progress the idea of a Forum of Argyll and Bute Councils. As there had been no reply, **JH will forward the letter to AH and AK and they will take this up with him**
  1. **Reports of meetings**:
* Argyll and Bute Council ‘Engagement Meeting’: this consisted of three long PowerPoint presentations from ABC managers, and provided little time for meaningful discussion. **JH will send the submitted questions to AK and AH**
* Arianne Burgess, MSP: discussion about matters including community councils’ 50th anniversary and HPMAs
* Tiree housing meeting with ACHA, WHHA and ABC: this had been very useful. There has been real progress towards a new programme of social house building, due in large part to more people having registered on the Argyll housing list
* Meeting with Dr Carly Maynard, a Lecturer in Environmental Ecology in Edinburgh. She is looking for a couple of locations in Scotland for an in-depth study into water resilience. She thought Tiree would be a good candidate
* Mull Community Council September meeting: nothing to report
  1. **Forthcoming meeting with Argyll and Bute Council Chief Executive on 17 August**: we agreed to raise the matters that had been put to the ‘Engagement Meeting’.
  2. **Scottish Parliament’s call for views on a proposed Visitor Levy (or ‘Tourist Tax’)**: we agreed to run a consultation about this. We had written a draft SurveyMonkey questionnaire. Several alterations to this were agreed. A mixture of support in general and caution about some of the details was expressed.
  3. **Ferries**: JH had met Don McKillop, the interim CalMac Area Manager:
  + The last few months had been particularly stressful for CalMac staff, with the new booking system and multiple vessel breakdowns. The incidence of staff sickness was high
  + Transport of the new refrigerant R32: CalMac were negotiating with the regulatory authorities as to how this might be carried in future
  + The low take-up of the Tiree-Barra link was noted. It was pointed out at the TCC meeting that Tiree crofters used the Barra abattoir and that this was also the only day for Coll residents to come to Tiree for the day, giving them access to the vet
  + **DM will look into the mis-match between the availability given by the website and that available on the day**
  1. **Planes**: applications for Residents Fare Card should now be made. Concern was expressed that second home owners might try to get these cards
  2. **AOCB**
* **Planning**: there had been one new application in Caolas (23/01319/PP). JH declared an interest as the architect was his son
* The Scottish Government has announced an extra £1million in funding for island communities which have been disproportionately affected by the cost-of-living crisis. In response the Scottish Government has announced that Argyll & Bute will be given £141,000. **AK will look into how this is being divided up. He thought it was less than last year**
  1. **Councillors’ reports**: AK reported in a new HITRANS initiative on airships, which he believes have potential for the islands. They can fly at 60 knots and carry up to 100 passengers. They also have 75% less emissions, and do not need airstrips. AH reported on the increasing use of drones by the Health and Social Care Partnership.
  2. **Date and venue of next meeting**: this will be on 13 September as a hybrid meeting in the Trust offices

The meeting closed at 2030.

Dr John Holliday 10.8.23