**TIREE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (TCC)**

**MINUTES OF OCTOBER PUBLIC MEETING**

**7pm Wednesday 4 October 2023 by Zoom**

1. **Present**: Phyl Meyer (chair), Dr John Holliday, Tim Arkless and Frances Khetrat. There no members of the public on the call, although 35 were watching on Facebook. By the next morning 129 has seen the meeting. It was acknowledged that the meeting was taking place a week early (because of upcoming holidays) and had been advertised late on social media.
2. **Apologies**: Jacqui Bennett and Aran Khetrat; Cllrs Jim Lynch, Andrew Kain, Amanda Hampsey and Willie Hume
3. **Declarations of interest**: FK is related to Aran Khetrat. There were no other declarations.
4. **Minutes of the last meeting**: these were accepted. Proposed TA, seconded PM.
5. **Matters arising**:

* Drop in evening to help people apply for their for Resident Fare Cards. This had been scheduled for this week but has now been put off until next
* The new IT hub has been installed in the Trust boardroom. It is working well. It will be used at next month’s in-person meeting. It currently works only on Teams, but **PM will make sure it also takes Zoom**
* PM is still intending to install the Balevullin beach sign
* The shared calendar or **events forum between Coll and Tiree is still in process**
* JH has written to the MSP supporting central government funding for a replacement Screen Machine
* JH has written in support of the Scottish Forum of Community Councils
* Tiree Community Garden: the Keder greenhouse has been ordered. Planning permission is needed. **PM will apply for this**
* JH has written to Highland Health Board about the new 48-hr rule for medical plane tickets. He has received new correspondence from an islander about this, and has forwarded it on to the Health Board. **The original letter will be on the TCC website**
* JH has found the original estimate for fencing central Scarinish, and has seen the managers of the bank and Coop. They will approach their estate departments

1. **Correspondence**:

* Tiree Community Council and Coll Transport Forum will be meeting Finlay MacRae from CalMac to discuss the proposed winter dry docking schedule for the *Clansman* and next summer’s timetable
* Dr Hannah Grist from the Scotland’s Rural College in Edinburgh will be coming to Tiree at the end of November as part of a Scottish Government water vulnerability study. She wants to meet TCC, crofters, builders and water staff
* The Convenor of Oban Community Council has written to ask if we want OCC to represent Tiree on the Oban Bay Management Group. **PM will write and confirm this**
* Robin Currie had acknowledged our letter about the creation of a Forum of Argyll and Bute Community Councils
* We had received a letter about the blind corner on the Mannal-Hynish border, recommending new passing places. **We will have a site visit and approach Highways again**
* We had received a letter about putting in steps and a rail at the Soroby graveyard. **JH will write to ABC asking for a site visit**
* Letter publicising the creation of a Youth Panel for the conservation project ‘Species on the Edge’
* Simon Deveney, Senior Manager, Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership is coming to Tiree in the next four weeks to monitor progress in modernising the Home. He wants to meet TCC
* There was no Police Report

1. **Reports of meetings**:

* SSEN about Coll to Tiree sub-sea cable: PM and JH had met with the project team. The cable is being replaced rather earlier than expected because of abrasion. The new cable is tougher and has greater capacity. It is being re-routed from Crossapol Bay, Coll. It will make landfall close to the existing cable. The first few hundred metres on land will be buried. The project team are willing to go into the school for some sessions
* Insulation and new heating systems at Pier View: JH had attended this. TCC had been lobbying for this for several years and we welcome it. The project team appeared excellent. Residents will endure considerable disruption, but will have warmer, more modern houses with no increase in rent. Some rubbish has blown out of the skips. **JH will contact the company**

1. **Councillors’ reports**: there were no councillors present. Jim Lynch had presented his report in writing
2. **Presentation of annual accounts**: PM said the accounts were still not ready
3. **Co-option of Aran Khetrat:** notice had been given at the last meeting. No other interest had been expressed for the position. FM did not vote, and Aran was unanimously accepted onto the council.
4. **New Trust Gaelic development officer:** Mary Ann Kennedy introduced herself and summarised work she intends to do to encourage the use of Gaelic on Tiree. Her father came from Kilmoluaig and she is enjoying learning more about the island and meeting people who can make a difference.
5. **Changes to TCC planning policy**: TM expressed a number of concerns about some recently-built houses. To take advantage of sea views, houses on Tiree were increasingly being built not with the traditional north-south alignment. Large picture windows were also becoming popular. Outside lighting was often badly designed and intrusive. Houses were becoming taller. This caused light pollution, a degradation of dark skies, the invasion of privacy for people walking past them and a change in the ‘look’ of the island. All these issues could be tackled in a Local Place Plan. **JH would approach planning to discover how much force the original Tiree Design Guide still had. TM will write up some proposals for the next meeting.**
6. **Planning applications for the month:**

* Gott:23/01900/PP
* Caolas: 23/01846/PPP
* Heanish: 23/01752/PP. This is in the Countryside Area, where building is rarely allowed, but approval had been granted many years ago
* Mannal: 23/01717/PP currently has 3 letters of support and 1 letter against

None of these proposals activated TCC’s planning policy.

1. **AOCB:** PM has been negotiating with Transport Scotland and the ferry committees on Mull and Coll. The pilot for retained ferry deck space released seven days ahead of sailing has been finally given the all clear and will start with the winter timetable. It will be administered by local port staff. The Mull, Coll and Tiree routes had also been given exemption from visitors with accommodation on the Advanced Standby List taking advantage of this new pilot. We welcomed this development.
2. **Date of next meeting:** this will be an in-person meeting using the new IT suite on 8 November

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

Dr John Holliday 6 October 2023