**MINUTES**

**TIREE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (TCC)**

**NOVEMBER PUBLIC MEETING**

**8 November 2023 7.30pm**

IT Hub at the Tiree Community Development Trust office, and by Zoom and on TCC Facebook

1. **Present:** Phyl Meyer (chair), Dr John Holliday, Aran Khetrat, Tim Arkless and Frances Khetrat. Cllr Amanda Hampsey. Two members of the public, including Constable Tanner, with seven devices connected live. 188 members of the public logged on to the TCC Facebook page during the meeting, with 365 having watched at least part of the meeting over the first 24 hours.
2. **Apologies:** Willie Hume and Jacqui Bennett
3. **Declarations of interest:** none declared
4. **Minutes of last meeting:** proposed as accurate by FK and seconded by PM.
5. **Matters arising:**

* The IT Hub has been installed and is being used for this meeting
* Shared calendar between Coll and Tiree **still in progress**
* PM is about to apply for planning permission for the Keder house at Pier View TCC community garden
* PM has written to Oban Community Council to say TCC was happy for OCC to represent us on the Oban Harbour Management Group
* A site visit to look at the road at the border between Mannal and Hynish **was still to be arranged**
* JH had written to Argyll and Bute Council (ABC) asking for a visit to examine the practicability for steps at the entrance of Soroby graveyard. Four weeks later, there has been no reply. **AH will raise this and JH will send her a copy of the letter**
* JH had contacted the company installing heating at Pier View to net off their skips. This has been done

1. **Correspondence**:

* There is a conference on 9.10 on a Scottish Government review of the Community Empowerment Act and Participation Requests. **JH intends to attend**
* There is a webinar on ‘Democracy Matters’ on 10 October. This is full. **JH will report on this initiative at the next meeting**
* Police report: there were 30 calls in August and September leading to 3 crimes: driving without insurance, communications offence, and assault and possession of offensive weapon. There were 6 calls and no crimes recorded for October
* Following a serious incident to 9 August when there was no police cover on the island, a police team had to be brought in by helicopter, and, when that failed, by lifeboat. TCC wrote to our community police link. He explained why it had not been possible to recruit cover on that occasion, but it was still their policy to cover police absence lasting more than a week. Concern has also been raised in the community about the long-term police presence on the island. The reply was that ‘it is my understanding that we have no plans to remove the Police presence from the island’. **The letter will be posted on the TCC website**
* There had been a BBC enquiry about current feelings on HPMAs on Tiree. It had just been announced that the scheme had been scrapped. This was no longer, therefore, a live issue
* Coll Community Council had suggested that the two CCs liaise about consultations and issues. **JH will undertake to improve this**
* There had been a complaint about dangerous parking and congestion along the road at the west end of Crossapol Beach. PM said that the Tiree Trust hoped to make some land available beside the new Business Units for parking. It was pointed out that surfers like to see the beach and to socialize with other surfers
* We agreed to renew the community disaster plan. **JH will liaise with local ABC staff**
* We had received a response from the Health Board in regards to the 48-hr rule for travel to hospital. **This will be posted on the TCC website.** Our application to re-open the decision had been turned down. We decided that this was not acceptable. **JH will contact other island CCs and take this forward**
* There had been a review of the island ambulance, and the drivers are no longer allowed to use the blue light when attending an emergency. The course needed to provide the qualification to use this was not going to be available to island staff. We were dismayed by this news, and did not agree that this would make the service on the island safer. It was suggested that the ambulance could use a green flashing light instead. **We will ask the ambulance management to come to the island to speak to us and to consider an Island Community Impact Assessment**
* There had been a query about how the new tank at the pumping station was working. **JH will write to Scottish Water to ask for a report**
* SSEN have informed us that the cabling from Coll to Tiree has been re-scheduled to 2025 because of the requirement for an addition environmental survey on the Coll sand dunes
* There is no longer a BT Openreach engineer on the island. This is leading to long delays in repairs. This will impact particularly on high priority groups. **We agreed to write Open Reach to ask them for a report or to attend the next TCC meeting in person**
* The drop-in session in partnership with the Trust to help people fill in the Residents Card Scheme had been well attended and there had been positive feedback

1. **Meeting reports:** JH had attended the November Mull Community Council meeting virtually. The Islander Priority Scheme had been suspended for Mull but not on Tiree and Coll. The ferry shows ‘sold out’ two hours before travel. You therefore need to contact the local office if you are travelling at short notice
2. **ABC Councillor reports:** Cllr Hampsey reported that the refurbishment of Taigh an Rudha is going to plan. Sending islanders to the mainland for care was a ‘red line’ for her. She has written to Douglas Henry to ask if the ABC funding for the Ring n Ride service is still in place. She has had a large number of housing enquiries recently. She had not yet enquired about a bin at the pier. **She will do this.**
3. **The loss of the Tiree Ring n Ride service**: this had ceased on 1 November. We had written an article in An Tirisdeach and given an interview to the BBC. We noted our appreciation for Angus John and his family for providing this service for twenty years. One in six households on Tiree do not have a car. Many people have told us how important the service has been: for example, those going to work, getting to the ferry and plane, visitors coming to Tiree without their cars, and collecting carers from the plane. The present contractor briefed the meeting. He took on the tender three years ago. It had been cut back £6-7,000 by ABC before it had even started, fuel prices had doubled in the last two years and it was difficult to recruit drivers. ABC had not listened to their requests to increase the tender. Latterly it ran at a loss. They had been ‘on call’ from 0830 to 1800 six days a week, so it had been a big commitment. The number of local people using the service ‘could be counted on one hand’. The contract was up for renewal next year. The ABC press release put the responsibility on the contractor rather than their funding. We had been very disappointed by this heavy-handed approach, despite the contractor giving them three months warning. **JH will write to ABC about the next step. Is the money ring-fenced for Tiree transport? Is ABC intending to re-tender the service?** TCC wanted to be involved in this discussion.
4. **Ferries**: Coll CC has proposed a change of the Barra boat day back to Thursday from summer 2024. We have asked around on Tiree, including the hauliers, and this change seems to be acceptable here. The Young Scot card allows two return trips to the mainland. This discriminates against islanders, because young people on the mainland can get unlimited free bus travel.
5. **Air links**:

* Hebridean Air has started a Thursday Oban-Colonsay-Tiree rotation on a Thursday. This was still not widely known but it could be very useful. **PM will put this information on TCC FB**
* Loganair had won the PSO contract, with consequent very increased fares for those without the Residents Fare Card
* Student and OAP fares were now available again. It was not clear if these concessionary fares were just for residents. They were not part of the PSO tender but were an initiative of the company
* The Residents Fare Card applications are being processed in a day. There is a guide on how to use them on the TCC FB page
* There had been more offloading recently due to overloaded planes. Part of the problem was that it has been unusually busy. The last person to book in usually gets ‘bumped’. Many people book in early on-line nowadays. Because there is no longer a SAAB, more people are having to travel up to Oban and come on the ferry

1. **Water vulnerabilities study**: Dr Hannah Grist is coming to study the water needs of the island (one of two places selected in Scotland) in the second week of December. She will meet people who know about water.
2. **Planning**:

* The Tiree Design Guide had been approved in 2009. It is still an active document, and is still quoted occasionally
* Community Councils will be asked about Local Place Plans next year at the same time as consultations start on LDP3
* There are two new planning applications this month:
* 23/01846/PPP in Carnan, Caolas. There were no issues with this one
* 23/01717/PP in Mannal. There had been concerns that this proposed house was still too big. There had been 20 objections, almost all from off the island; there had been 5 support letters, all from on the island. This application therefore did not meet the threshold for TCC to intervene
* TA made some general points about the design of recent houses. We decided to defer consideration of this until the Place Plan is debated

1. **AOCB**: PM had contacted Hugh Nicol, Argyll Estates factor, about a ditch that had been dug on Balevullin beach. Its purpose appears to have been to drain water from the stream prior to a storm event. Some sand had been lostto sea, but the general feeling was that nature would return the beach to its natural state before long.
2. **Date and location of December public meeting**: this will be virtual and on 13 December

Dr John Holliday 9.11.23