**TIREE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (TCC)**

**FEBRUARY PUBLIC MEETING**

**7 pm on 21 February 2024**

**On Zoom and streamed on the TCC Facebook page**

1. **Present**: Phyl Meyer (chair initially), Dr John Holliday (chair later), Tim Arkless and Aran Khetrat. 3 members of the public attended online and 34 were watching it live on Facebook. 129 people had watched the recording one week later.
2. **Apologies**: Willie Hume (who is not able to use Zoom on his Argyll and Bute Council equipment), Phyl (who had to leave the meeting after 15 minutes), Frances Khetrat and Jacqui Bennett.
3. **Conflicts of interest:** TA declared an interest in Balevullin Beach as he has a house nearby
4. **Minutes of last meeting**: proposed PM and seconded TA.
5. **Matters arising:**

* A new Community Emergency Plan has been drawn up by JH and Rona Campbell. **They will do a table top exercise to test it**
* JH had written to Derek Crooks, Argyll and Bute Council (ABC), about training a pest control officer for the island. Someone from Tiree has done the course but not the exam. **DC will chase this up**
* TCC had not had a reply from Jim Smith about a roads gritter for Tiree
* JH had contacted the waste department at ABC about mixed recyclate. This should not be bagged
* JH had written to Peter Isaacson at Argyll Estates about shooting parties. Anyone is free to contact him if they want to be notified of shooting around their house
* One family has expressed an interest in Tiree scholars’ flights. **TA will put them in contact with JH**
* JH had not contacted John Patience yet about the phone box removal. **He will do so**
* The Tiree Trust had turned down our request to repair the fence around the Scarinish retail centre. There was a suggestion to scale back the project. **JH will contact the contractor again**
* JH had written to Brett Sadler about a new bus shelter at Pier View
* A planning application for the community garden has been lodged. Thanks were given to John Patience for helping with this

1. **Correspondence:**

* Donna Lockhart the CalMac Area Operations Manager had written to tell us that the port stabilizer on LOTI has broken down. Spare parts will be difficult to obtain. It will mean a reduced ability to sail in swell
* The Tiree library will be closing on 27 February, re-opening on 5 March
* National Climate Adaptation Plan consultation closes 24 April. Details from JH
* Jenni Minto will be on the island on 15 March
* There is a question whether TCC should subscribe to the Scottish Islands Federation for £25
* A free copy of a portrait of King Charles III is available for CCs until 28 March. There was a question about where it would hang. Expressions for and against were heard. **JH will contact other councillors and the An Talla chair**
* We have had correspondence about the extreme importance of community transport to replace the RingnRide service. We will keep an eye on this important matter
* JH had written to Robin Currie about an ABC Forum of Argyll and Bute CCs

1. **Meeting reports:**

* CHFS3 consultation about the next contract with CalMac. Some officials from Transport Scotland came out to Tiree. We complained how difficult it was to get compensation out of CalMac, every cancelled sailing being put down to ‘weather’ rather than ‘technical’. We also asked for better communications from the company
* JH had attended Coll and Mull community council meetings
* JH had attended a meeting with the Tiree Trust about climate change

1. **Argyll and Bute Councillors’ reports**: there were none
2. **ABC budget proposals**: the budget was being decided tomorrow. Unlike last year, there had been little advance debate about this, for reasons that were unclear. It was not obvious that Tiree was directly involved in any of the proposed savings.
3. **Democracy Matters consultation**: JH had written a consultation response and posted it on the TCC website. We agreed with its general arguments. **JH will submit this.**
4. **Ferries:**

* The reserved deck space pilot was operating and anecdotal evidence was that it was working well, although operated by hand by port staff while the LOTI was on
* There have been rumours that RET might be either abolished or only given to residents
* There is a current consultation about the Island Connectivity plan (details from JH)
* There have been several meetings with Coll and Colonsay CCs about future timetables. No proposals for change have been accepted by the company, as they have to be cost neutral and to comply with crew hour regulations and berthing capacity at the busy Oban pier. We need to get a meeting of the Tiree Transport Forum
* There had been no mention recently about a new marshalling area at the pier head. **JH will do some research**

1. **Scottish Water**: we had been informed that Scottish Water had recently refused a water connection because supplies were not sufficient. JH had contacted Jen Latka, Team Manager, Development Operations at SW: ‘Further to my email last week I wanted to confirm to you that approval has been given for your constituents connection request. There are works underway to reinforce the network further on Tiree and to ensure that future requests are also accommodated.’ JH had contacted Brian Stephenson, Development Services, Strategic Development Team Manager, North Region, to ask for regular meetings about water supplies. It was pointed out that septic tank drainage might also become a problem.
2. **Balevullin Beach sand loss**:TA talked about a drainage channel that had been dug in Balevullin Beach a few months ago. This had led to the erosion of a lot of sand, the flattening of the beach and the potential loss of dunes. The beach belonged to Argyll Estates, and they were entitled to manage it as they saw fit. **JH will talk to local crofters and then draft a letter to the estate.**
3. **Planning applications for the last month**: there were no applications needing the attention of TCC. We had received a letter about a planning proposal in Mannal, which had drawn a lot of comments, mainly hostile. JH had looked through the list of commentators and found that there were only five were on the Tiree Electoral Roll. It therefore did not meet our planning policy criteria.
4. **AOCB**: TA raised clearing rubbish around Reef Terrace in Crossapol. **JH will contact ACHA.**
5. **Date and location of March public meeting**: this will be on Wednesday 13 March at 7pm in person in the Trust offices.

Dr John Holliday, 22 February 2024