**MINUTES**

**TIREE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (TCC)**

**MARCH PUBLIC MEETING**

**7pm 13 March 2024**

**Conference Room, Tiree Community Development Trust**

**And by Zoom**

**1. Present**: Phyl Meyer (chair), Dr John Holliday, Tim Arkless, Frances Khetrat and John MacCaskill. There was one member of the public present, with two on the Zoom call. Up to 13 people were watching live on Facebook. 188 people had looked at the FB feed by the next day

**2. Apologies**: Cllrs. Amanda Hampsey and Willie Hume, and Aran Khetrat

**3. Declarations of interest**: collectively TCC declared an interest in the community garden project. There were no others.

**4. Minutes of the last meeting**: these were agreed. Proposed FK, seconded TA

**5. Matters arising**:

* **Phone boxes**: there had been two enquiries to buy phone boxes. We discussed possible prices. Good examples appeared to be selling for as much as £700, although the Tiree boxes were not in a good state. **JH will look at the price range.** We decided to ask for a suggested donation. JH had talked to John Patience. The boxes may still have an electricity supply and they needed to be inspected, and, if necessary, made safe before removal. This will have cost implications. Two young people at the school had asked to use the Cornaigmore box as a second-hand shop. We agreed to this. **JH will visit the Cornaigmore box and contact an electrician, and then contact the young people**
* **King’s portrait**: the offer for this had been discussed by email. There had been a tied vote, with the chair casting the deciding vote not to accept this
* **Scottish Islands Federation**: we agreed to become members. **JH will organise this.**
* **Community garden**: there had been one response to our planning application. **PM will reply with help from John Patience**
* **Scottish Water**: JH had attended a meeting with Euan Innes from SW. He will put us in touch with the relevant team to discuss the situation. The Trust’s plans to build 12-14 houses in Scarinish will be a test for the system. ACHA also has plans for more housing. **We will ask Discover Tiree to consider a leaflet for holiday houses**
* We were still waiting for an update for pest control training
* We had decided not to write to the estate about Balevullin beach
* We had not had a reply from ACHA about rubbish around Reef Terace

**6. John MacCaskill was** appointed for his transport expertise to TCC under ‘Skills and Knowledge’. We agreed unanimously.

**7. Correspondence**:

* **The lack of a BT engineer on the island**: the landline of a vulnerable resident had stopped working. When a relation had contacted BT, they were promised quick action by a call handler. This was repeated ten times over two weeks before the fault was fixed. The problem seemed to be that the system did not alert the call handler that Tiree was an island. This potential problem had been raised with BT by TCC earlier, but we had been reassured that it would not be a problem. The vet’s surgery landline had also been off for several days, with serious implications. The copper network was being phased out**. We agreed to raise this problem with Jenni Minto, MSP. We also agreed to ask a BT manager to attend our next meeting**
* **Cuts to funding for the Gaelic Development Officer**: TCC had written, jointly, with the Tiree Trust to protest at this serious news. This letter had been reported in *The* *Guardian.* **We will also raise this matter with Jenni Minto**
* **Argyll and Bute Forum of Community Councils**: Robin Currie had written to say that this proposal was being examined by Argyll and Bute Council
* We agreed to meet Jenni Minto jointly with the Tiree Trust in two days when she visits the island

**8. Transport meeting report**: JMA had attended the Coll Transport sub-committee. Colonsay CC also attended. It had been a good meeting. There had been concern that Hebridean Air’s new contract in the Western Isles might detract from the Tiree-Coll-Colonsay service. He had looked into this, and HA must be purchasing a new aircraft. There are questions about ferry docking in the dark, and a FOI has been submitted about this by Colonsay CC. **PM will call another meeting of Tiree Transport Forum, which is overdue**. JMA agreed to become its chair.

**9. Reports from District Councillors**: there were none.

**10. Resignations of Phyl Meyer and Jacqui Bennett**: these were accepted. TA proposed a voted of thanks for many years of hard work to PM, who was present. PM will continue until the by-election in May. He would make sure that TCC was able to continue to use the video suite in the Trust office.

**11. Community Council by-elections**: there are six places up for election. These had been advertised on Facebook by PM. **He would do so again**. TA said that his daughter would do a poster. JH has the application papers. If it is a contested election, TCC could hold a hustings.

**12. Resilience of Glasgow air link**: JMA reported a potential problem with the sustainability of this service due to the withdrawal of the SAAB airframes. This left Loganair with just three Twin Otters for the Barra, Tiree and Campbeltown rotations. During breakdowns or planned repairs, this was just not enough. **He will contact Loganair in the first instance.**

**13. Ferries**: we welcomed the return of the *Clansman.* It appears that Tiree and Coll will not be badly hit by the long dry docking of the *Caledonian Isles*. The new marshalling area works should be at the end the 2024.

**14. Roads**: we welcomed an ABC £200,000 tar overlay programme that was due on Tiree later in the year. There could be a problem with capacity on the boat. The tar also needs to be delivered hot, so that any delays with the ferry will be critical. **JH will do a site visit to Hynish to look at a new potential site for a passing place.**

**16. Scarinish fence**: JH had visited the site with the contractor, and had asked for prices for a complete replacement, partial replacement or removal. Sheep dirt at the doors of food shops could present a hygiene problem. **We agreed to do a survey to see how popular it was with the businesses and the public.** We would try to crowdfund the project ourselves.

**17. Local Place Plans**: we would be asked if we wanted to take part in April. The Tiree Trust has already agreed to support this. Some funding from ABC was available. It would allow the community to have more of an input into where and what sort of houses are built in the future. Planning is a hot potato. **We agreed to look at this again after the by-election to see what capacity we had**.

**18. Planning applications**: we had been asked again to consider an application in Mannal. JH had checked the portal on the day of the meeting. There had been over twenty responses, but only four from the island. We agreed that we would not consider this, as it did not meet the criteria of our Planning Policy. **We agreed to look at the policy again.** There were no other planning applications that came within our policy criteria.

**19. AOCB**: the Trust is producing a Community Action Plan. **We agreed that someone from the Trust would come to the next TCC meeting to present it, if it is ready by then.**

**20. Next meeting**: this was not discussed, but will be on Wednesday 10 April and will be online.

Dr John Holliday, 14 March 2023