**MINUTES OF TIREE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (TCC)**

**APRIL PUBLIC MEETING**

**10 April 2024**

**by Zoom**

1. **Present:** Phyl Meyer (chair), Dr John Holliday, Frances Khetrat, Aran Khetrat, Tim Arkless and John MacCaskill. There was one member of the public on the Zoom link and 237 people watching on Facebook.
2. **Apologies**: Cllr Willie Hume
3. **Declarations of interest**: PM declared that he was the Station Manager at the Tiree fuel pump. JH said that TCC had been funded by the Trust more than ten years ago, and is dependent on the Trust for IT support.
4. **Approval of minutes of last meeting**: these were agreed as a true record. Proposed FK, seconded TA.
5. **Matters arising:**

* **Phone boxes**: these were selling at £1-2,000 fully renovated. JH had visited the Cornaigmore box and it was in very poor condition with no door. **He would write to the young people hoping to use it.** JH had contacted Keith Langley to do a survey of the four remaining boxes. There had been two local enquiries about taking a box, but neither had taken the matter further
* **Community garden**: still waiting for a planning decision. There had been a suggestion that the ground had been contaminated during the last war. Enquiries are continuing. PM said that he was happy to continue to be on the garden working group. **TCC should elect a councillor to be on this after PM steps down**
* **Scottish Water**: JH is still in discussion with SW in the hope of setting up a liaison group
* **Lack of a BT engineer**: we had raised this with Jenni Minto, MSP. JH has written to her team to ask if there had been any progress, but he has received no reply yet
* **Hynish passing place**: **deferred until next meeting**
* **Scarinish fence update**: JH was waiting for a quotation from the contractor
* **Gaelic Development Officer**: the programme has only been extended until the end of August. Since the Tiree GDO has now resigned, this is unlikely to help Tiree in the short-term
* **Scottish Islands Federation**: JH has taken out membership on behalf of TCC
* **Rubbish bin at the pier**: this has been raised with Cllr Hampsey, and we are waiting her response

1. **Correspondence**

* SEPA and Potentially Vulnerable Areas
* Pest control: Derek Crooks from Argyll and Bute Council (ABC) has told us that the Council would pay for the training of someone to do this. There is an exam on the mainland that any candidate would need to pass. Call-outs are paid for. Anyone interested to see us. Cover currently comes from Coll

1. **Meetings reports**: Jenni Minto, MSP. We had raised Gaelic development and BT.
2. **Reports from district councillors**: there were none. PM summarised developments at ABC. The administration has changed to SNP/Labour/Green control. Cllr Jim Lynch, our ward member, is now the Council leader
3. **By-election results and future co-option**: we congratulated FK, AK and JA for their new elected positions. Gerard McGoogan was also re-elected to TCC. We now have the opportunity to appoint two new co-opted members. If anyone is interested, please apply.
4. **Fuel prices**: PM stepped down as chair for this item. JH took his place. TCC had received four letters of complaint about the new pricing policy. PM was asked to give a report on behalf of the Trust. The filling station is actually run by TCEL (Tiree Community Enterprise Ltd), a subsidiary of the Trust. They do not seek to make a profit, and are currently not making one. The running costs for this year are around £48,000. A mark-up of 16p per litre is necessary to cover that cost. The filling station sells 50% of its fuel in the four months May to August. Due to the cost of living crisis, TCEL decided to set a slightly lower tariff in the winter (14p) and a higher one (18p) in the summer. The alternative would be a flat 16p increase all year round. There was a discussion about this. Many visitors fill up before they get onto the ferry, and there was a feeling that summer visitors would not be put off significantly by the higher costs of filling their cars on Tiree. This policy will be regularly reviewed by TCEL. There was a feeling that a community consultation would be of benefit, and that regular reports on the fuel use and finances of the fuel station would be helpful. One councillor felt that, as a regular driver through the year, they would be saving as a result of this. Another said that they drove a lot more in the summer due to commitments, and the effect would be pretty neutral. More information about the filling station in the public domain would be helpful. JH proposed that we encourage people to contact us in confidence with their thoughts, and then TCC would write to TCEL with our reflection son this policy. The tremendous work setting up and running the fuel station was gratefully acknowledged.
5. **Transport:**

* Resilience of the Glasgow flight now that the SAABs have gone: JMC has contacted Loganair three times with no reply. **He will contact Transport Scotland, if there is no answer soon**
* There have been concerns about aspects of the Oban flights. The Colonsay and Coll transport groups have arranged a **meeting with ABC in two weeks**
* Passengers on the Oban flight do not get the same compensation and customer service enjoyed by Loganair passengers travelling through Glasgow. One patient was sent back to hospital when her plane was cancelled last week, for the hospital to deny that they had a responsibility for her admission. **JMC will follow this up**
* Landing charges at all HIAL airports have gone up 300%. TCC has received four letters from pilots, some of whom have Tiree connections, who say that this move will put off recreational flights to the island. There is a danger that very few private planes will come to Tiree in the future. Landing at Oban will become much cheaper. **JMC has written to HIAL for clarification**
* We are losing the Barra connection for 4 weeks from 15 April. This will have a big effect on people coming to Tiree for the day, often to work. It has been caused by the *Clansman* being needed to cover the Colonsay run in place of the *Finlaggan*. We realise that there will we little we can do, this time. But we understood that we may need to fight for the double run on a Wednesday in future. It allows Coll people to come to Tiree for the vet, dentist, optician and to shop. **JMC will contact Donnie MacInnes, the Tiree member of the CalMac Community Board**
* A Transport Forum meeting will be called soon. JMC has been welcomed as the new chair
* There will be a meeting 9 May with CMAL about a new harbour Revision Order

1. **TCC accounts and annual grant from Argyll and Bute Council**: these were not submitted before the end of March, and so we had lost £400. The problem has been getting details changed with the bank. We will produce our accounts for our AGM in June. TCC needs a card to make payments, for example for the website.
2. **All weather pitch access**: we agreed to write LiveArgyll to ask about access to this facility out of school hours. If the pitch was left unlocked, people could use it more. The school would still get exclusive use during the school day, and booked groups would still pay for use and have priority. Insurance might be an issue. The Trust organises its own insurance for its youth groups using it. **JH would draft a letter.**
3. **Planning applications**: there were none this month
4. **AOCB**:

* The loss of the Ring-and-Ride service is still keenly felt. Is the budget line still there? It was felt that it was going to be very difficult to make progress on this
* What is happening with Frances Walker’s thatched house in Balevullin. **JH would find out**

1. **Date and place of next meeting**: May 8 in person in the Trust offices.

Dr John Holliday 11 April 2024