

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Durness Community Council, Monday 24th June at
7.30pm Durness Village Hall.**

1. **Present:** Kevin Crowe *Chair*, Anne Mackenzie *Treasurer*, Denise McNamara, Neil Fuller, Donald Mitchell, Sarah Fuller *Secretary*.

Apologies: Nick Barth & PC Sutherland, Cllr. Hugh Morrison.

Absent: Francis Keith

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.**

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved by Neil Fuller and seconded by Denise McNamara.

3. **Matters Arising.**

- Housing. Neil to contact Morven Taylor of the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust.
- M.O.D. The Report on the beached whales is still awaited, Donald reported that it is nearing completion.
- Puffin Link. The Puffin Link is working reasonably well. Donald reported a fall in puffin numbers, thought to be the result of predation by stoat. A discussion regarding the future of the puffin link took place as there is very little puffin activity during the day.
- Ambulance & Air Ambulance Provision. No response from Andrew Moir as yet. Kevin is to contact the Coastguard to find out when and why they stopped attending helicopter landings.
- Lynx Bone, Smoo & Borralie Caves. Recent publicity of the finds has been excellent. Colin Coventry would very much like the wolf, human and boar bones from the same chamber to also be carbon dated. Kevin is to contact Dr Andrew Kitchener to ascertain costs and Andrew Puls (HC Archaeology Dept.) for help with funding. Denise suggested that information regarding the finds be displayed at the cave, this is also to be investigated.
- Keodale Risk Assessment & Cape Wrath Road. Cllr. Morrison is to report at the next meeting.
- Durness Diggers. Kevin is to contact all relevant parties regarding a funding application.
- Parking at Hames Place. Cllr. Morrison is to report at the next meeting.
- Laid Notice Board. Kevin has emailed the Laid, Polla & Port na Con Residents Assoc. but has received no response. The notice board has been moved but is still on common grazing land.
- Speeding Motorcycles: Laid, Polla & Port na Con Residents Assoc. Kevin has emailed stating that while Durness CC. do not condone speeding motorcycles, they do not have the power to impose speed limits.
- Bees at Balnakeil. A dispute regarding the use of the tattie patch has arisen and work has ceased. Nicola Poole will contact the Bee Charity to try and resolve the issues.
- Soutterains at Eriboll. Neil is to contact Kenneth Mackenzie Hillcoat regarding previous investigations.

- Memorial Garden. In order to address the ongoing issue of children playing in the Memorial garden, Neil is to look into potential funding and siting for an all-weather multipurpose pitch with lighting.

4. Police matters.

Nothing to report.

5. Planning Applications.

Partial change of use of garage space to business use has been applied for at Bothan Beag, Sangomore. There were no objections.

6. Reports.

- **D.D.G.**

The Community Right to buy Re-registration of interest for Cape Wrath has now been granted by Scottish Ministers. Highlands & Islands Social Enterprise Zone are currently undertaking research and will prepare a report which will better inform any future decision should the community have the opportunity to purchase the land.

A new Website is online for Durness Bike hub, providing information on bike hire and routes around the area. A new website for the development group is also under construction.

Partial funding for the renovation of 1 Bard Terrace has been received and further funding applications are ongoing. DDG hope to begin renovations to return Bard Terrace to social housing stock this autumn.

Donald asked if DDG had any Ceannabeinne Township Trail or Walking Route leaflets? It was thought not, Donald is to ask Ronnie if he holds any.

- **Geopark.**

A date of 16th – 20th July has been set for re-validation with the European Geopark Network and all are working hard to ensure a positive result. The draft timetable for the visit has been produced.

7. North West Sutherland Local health Partnership.

Kevin received a phone call from Kate Morrison (N.H.S.) asking for a representative from the C.C. to attend meetings of the above Partnership. Kevin expressed an interest in attending and all agreed. The next meeting will take place on July 4th.

8. Highland Leader Programme.

A report has been produced, Neil & Sarah are to read.

9. A.O.B.

- Donald reported that bins at the Visitor Information Centre are overflowing and that no public bins are available at this site. Sarah is to email Cllr. Morrison regarding this issue.

- Donald reported that someone has lit a fire next to the no Fires sign at Ceannabeinne.

10. Date of next meeting. Monday 2nd September at 7.30pm, Durness Village Hall.