

Minutes of the Meeting of Durness Community Council, Monday 1st June

at 7.30pm Durness Village Hall.

1. **Present:** Scott Macpherson *Chair*, Anne Mackenzie *Treasurer*, Donald Mitchell *Vice Chair*, Eddie Meyer, Alan Andrews, Cllr. Hugh Morrison, P.C. George Silcock and Sarah Fuller *Secretary*.

Apologies: Neil Fuller.

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** The Minutes of the March meeting were passed by Anne & Scott, with one correction under Speed restrictions in Laid it should have read, Laid Grazing's Committee & Laid Residents Assoc.

3. **Matters Arising.**

- Puffin Link. Peter Mackay is to hold the equipment until a decision has been reached on the future of the puffin link. **Action:** Donald is to apply the Ward Discretionary budget for funding to repair the equipment for next year. Cllr. Morrison suggested a DVD of the puffins and/or Smoo Cave for visitors unable to access these attractions and as an income source for the C.C.
- M.o.D. Scott is to try and get contact details to organise a date for the next Liaison meeting. The Pilot Whale report is complete and overdue for publication; a freedom of information request from the C.C. is to be made if it is not made available.
- Speed restrictions in Laid. Laid Grazing's Committee and the Laid Residents Association have received letters of support from Rob Gibson MSP & PAUL Monaghan MSP.
- Capeside Road. Cllr. Morrison has said that it is unclear yet whether any money will be available to maintain the road.
- Health Board. **Action:** Scott and Hugh are to email Fiona Duff regarding Surgery hours and who will cover reception following Dr Belbin' retirement. The Note of the Public Meeting of 25th May was passed and is to be displayed locally.

4. **Police Matters.**

Scott welcomed PC George Silcock to his first Community Council meeting. PC Silcock explained been in Rhiconich for 3 weeks now having transferred the Devon & Cornwall Police, he has 10 years experience of small community policing, although he spent the last 8 years with Special Branch in Counter terrorism. PC Silcock would like to instigate a drop-in police surgery (possibly half an hour prior to C.C. meeting) for informal meetings with the public and would also like to give a briefing to the C.C. local Coastguard and Fire brigade on the prevention of terrorism, date to be confirmed.

5. **Reports.**

- **D.D.G.**

Further market research into the harbour project has taken place; this will be added to the business plan. Neil is to meet with the Hall Committee to discuss the potential widening of the health Hub Project, in order to make it more sustainable in the long term and thus more attractive to funders.

- **N.W.H.Geopark**
The Rock Stop at Unapool is now open. Revalidation of membership of the European Geopark network is due this July. Donald will report further after next weeks meeting.
- **Treasurers Report.**
C.C. balance is £ 1239.83.
- **North West Sutherland Local Health Partnership (NWSLHP).**
No one is available to attend these meetings. **Action:** Sarah to email requesting a later meeting after normal working hours.

6. Sheep loose within the village.

Sheep are still loose around the village, the situation is to be monitored and any complaints should go to the Grazing's Committee.

7. Ruby Run. Alan is to pipe for the start of the Ruby Run on Tuesday June 30th at 9.30am.

8. Constitution. Action: Cllr. Morrison is to find out which H.C. representative should sign the Constitution.

9. A.O.B.

- Cllr. Morrison confirmed that the Durness Service Point is due to close and that the Registrar service may also be lost. This will only save the H.C. £4,000 per annum.
- Donald reported that lots of vehicles seem to be driving up the back road- this may be due to sat nav's, most of the vehicles turn at the fire station and come back to the main road. Cllr. Morrison stated he would try to think of appropriate signage to discourage this.

10. Date of next meeting. Monday 6th July at 7.30pm.