

Minutes of the Meeting of Durness Community Council, Monday 2nd February

at 7.30pm Durness Village Hall.

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

Apologies: Kevin Crowe *Chair*, Neil Fuller & PC Ian Sutherland.

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** The Minutes of the previous meeting were passed by Anne Mackenzie & Scott Macpherson.

3. **Matters Arising.**

- Ambulance & Air Ambulance Provision. No Further information has been received.
- Lynx Bone, Smoo & Borralie Caves. No Results have been received as yet.
- Puffin Link. Donald reported that the Eagle link in Lochinver is not going to be running this year- there will be no joint application to the Ward Discretionary fund. A thank you email has been sent to Peter Mackay for his work last summer. Action: Donald to apply to the Ward Discretionary fund again.
- Telephone List. Three numbers are to be added to the list before printing.
- Cape Wrath Slipway & road. The road was inspected last week.
- Kyle of Durness oyster farm. Planning permission for a mooring has been applied for.
- Speed restrictions in Laid. Alan is to write to Rob Gibson MSP on behalf of Durness C.C. and ask that a supporting letter be sent from Laid Grazing Committee.

4. **Reports.**

- **D.D.G.**

Eriboll Harbour; The application to the Big Lottery, Investing in Idea's fund has been submitted to raise funds for the wave study which will inform the design of the harbour. 1 Bard Terrace has been let and will be occupied from next week. The Village Hall Committee have committed to progressing the Health Hub and are looking into updating their Constitution.

- **N.W.H.Geopark**

A full programme of events for 2015 has been published and the winter walks have been very well attended. In future the Geopark will pay for its own Hall Hire.

- **Treasurers Report.**

C.C. balance is £ 1532.83. Neil has paid for the website address durness.scot.

- **North West Sutherland Local Health Partnership (NWSLHP).**

Nothing to report.

- **The North West Sutherland Trust**, Creag Riabhach Wind farm. The planning application has been referred to the Scottish Executive.

5. Uncollected Refuse in Laid.

Action: Donald will remove the rubbish. Eddie reported that the house is to be sold.

6. Quad Bikes on Balnakeil beach.

No further progress.

7. Balnakeil Graveyard.

Donald reported that the wall is down at the gate and that a number of graves are exposed, due to rabbit disturbance. **Action:** Cllr. Morrison will email the H.C. about rabbit proofing the graveyard.

8. A.O.B.

- **Wi-Fi at Hall.** The new broadband package will cost each group £24 per year, this will be added to the hall bill.
- **Power Cuts.** Eddie asked what steps were in place in case of an emergency during the recent power cuts. Cllr. Morrison reported that the police and coastguard were patrolling and that the coastguard were monitoring the emergency radio band and relaying messages to Shetland. A discussion ensued regarding the difficulties during the power cuts, especially accessing fuel. Suggestions of a backup generator for the mobile phone mast and a radio for Laid were discussed.
- **Service Point Consultation.** This is available to fill in on the H.C. website homepage. The current proposal is to close Lochinver, Durness and Bettyhill Service Points- the hub for Sutherland will be based in Golspie.
- **Impeded sight lines.** Bushes are currently impeding sightlines at the entrance to Balnakeil Craft Village, the owners of Cocoa Mountain are happy for them to be trimmed by the Local Council. The owners of Cocoa Mountain also raised the issue of the discrepancy of the pavements at the entrance to the Craft Village, this would have to be referred to the H.C.
- **Pre- Gritting.** Cllr. Morrison reported that the proposals to cease pre-gritting on low volume A roads from October 2015 put lives at risk. All agreed that no overnight gritting would be detrimental for anyone using the roads at night or first thing in the morning.
- **Citizens Advice.** Scott asked that the monthly visits of the Citizens Advice Bureau to the Durness Service Point be better advertised.

9. Date of next meeting. Monday 2nd March at 7.30pm.