

Minutes of the Meeting of Durness Community Council, Monday 2nd June at 7.30pm Durness Village Hall.

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

Apologies: Neil Fuller *Vice Chair*, PC Ian Sutherland.

2. Kevin welcomed the two new members to their first meeting of the Durness Community Council. Kevin proposed co-opting Donald on to the Community Council- this was agreed unanimously.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** The Minutes of the previous meeting were passed by Donald and seconded by Anne.

4. Matters Arising.

- Ambulance & Air Ambulance Provision. The issue of single-handed ambulance cover has now been taken up by Rob Gibson M.S.P. The ambulance staff of KLB and Bettyhill have taken the matter to an Industrial Tribunal.
- Lynx Bone, Smoo & Borrallie Caves. Kevin has emailed Dr Kitchener, no response has yet been received.
- Puffin Link. Donald has applied to the Ward Discretionary fund for £ 1,600.00. There has been no decision as yet, more information has been requested.
- Telephone List. A draft of the new list has been produced and will be left in the shop for final editing. **Action;** Sarah to cost printing.
- School Playing Field. **Action:** Cllr. Morrison to email again for clarification on ownership.
- M.o.D. Major Halpin (Rtd) is to send a couple of possible dates for the Liaison meeting in October. **Action;** Kevin is email requesting 2 meetings per year. Donald requested a meeting with the Conservation Group. The M.o.D. have apologised for use of the Range during the C.W. Challenge Week and have requested the dates for next year's event ASAP.
- Caution Horse Signs. Cllr. Morrison has requested the signs from the H.C; they have not arrived as yet.
- Scottish Water & Smoo Cave. An email has been received from Dougie Scott, Scottish Waters' Reservoir Engineer. Mr Scott is visiting the area this week and will meet with representatives of the C.C. and Colin Coventry to discuss the issues regarding water levels at Loch Meadaidh and the impact on the Boat Tours in Smoo Cave.
- Smoo Cave Website. The account for the domain name has now been paid.
- Bus Shelter. Kevin has contacted local bus operators. The Durness Bus Company have responded requesting that the area in front of the Public Toilets would be an ideal location for a bus shelter and have offered assistance to make this happen. **Action;** Cllr. Morrison is to check that the H.C. owns the land and to ask them to supply a shelter. Cllr. Morrison also suggested that a shelter at the bus park at Smoo Cave would be a good idea, all agreed. **Action:** Kevin is to reply to the Durness Bus Company.

5. Police matters.

A number of recent thefts of tools have been reported from Durness, anyone with any information regarding these thefts should contact P.C.Sutherland. Eddie Meyer raised the

issue of the need for a speed limit through Laid- this will be raised with P.C. Sutherland at the next meeting.

6. Reports.

- **D.D.G.**

Eriboll Harbour; The tender for the Market Research & Business Plan has been awarded to SKS Scotland who have begun work already. Health Hub; Planning permission has been renewed and applications are underway for the build costs. Cape Wrath; The Directors of D.D.G. are currently attempting to research the facts & figures needed for the Business Plan, if anyone would like to volunteer to help with this task, any assistance no matter how small would be gratefully received.

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

The new Geopark website is now up and running at www.nwhgeopark.com. The next meeting will take place on Monday 9th June.

- **Treasurers Report.**

£30.00 has been received from the website and £30.00 paid for the Smoo Cave domain name.

C.C. balance is £ 435.97p.

Bills for the adverts are to be sent out.

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

Provision of local Dental Services was discussed following the agreement by KLB High School that the current provision of service for children in the mobile dental unit be opened up to include adults. NHS Highland requires the approval of the Chief Dental Officer for Scotland; an update was expected by the end of May, **Action**; Kevin to email. Concerns were raised at the last meeting regarding the provision of Children's Services, but no one from this department attends NWSLHP meetings. The Paediatric physiotherapist based at Caithness General is no longer in post, but this was only discovered when a doctor tried to make a referral. **Action**; Kevin to ask that this be added to the Agenda of the next meeting.

7. Planning Applications.

There were no relevant planning applications.

8. Highland Council Budget Consultations.

Kevin proposed that the bulk of the next meeting be concerned with providing a response to this issue.

9. Website.

The C.C. agreed for the need for a community website on which to publish minutes etc, with the C.C. retaining control of the content. **Action**: Neil is to look into Visit Scotland fund for destination marketing websites.

10. A.O.B.

- **Dalchork Wind farm.** The inaugural meeting is to take place this Wednesday.
- **New track at Rhigolter.** An email has been received from Colin Morrison raising concerns over the new track above Rhigolter. **Action;** Kevin will write to the landowner to establish the intended purpose and extent of this track. Kevin will also respond to Mr Morrison. Donald offered to contact S.N.H.
- **Increase in Hall Charges.** The recent rise in Hall charges may become an issue for the Youth Club. **Action;** Kevin is to contact the Youth Club Committee.
- **Transport Links.** Cllr. Morrison has been looking into the possibility of a bus from Durness which would meet up with the Ferry in Ullapool and the late bus from Inverness to Ullapool, all agreed that this merited further investigation.
- **Port na Con road.** Eddie reported that there is a chain across the road after the turning point; it was thought that the road was de-adopted at this point.

11. Date of next meeting. Monday 30th June at 7.30pm.