

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

at 7.30pm Durness Village Hall.

1. **Present:** Kevin Crowe *Chair*, Neil Fuller Donald Mitchell *Vice Chair*, Scott Macpherson, Anne Mackenzie *Treasurer*, Eddie Meyer, Cllr. Hugh Morrison and Sarah Fuller *Secretary*.
Apologies: Alan Andrews & 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. The ambulance now has 4 full time staff members in place. Cllr. Morrison suggested forwarding the minutes of the C.C. meetings between Scourie, Durness & KLB to ensure all of the communities are up to date on this issue. 2 new Sikorsky helicopters are being fitted out as air ambulances, one should be available for this area. Scott reported that the search and rescue helicopters would continue at the same level of provision. Cllr Morrison reported that Lairg are getting air ambulance lights, this will mean that if a patients condition deteriorates enroute to hospital they could be transferred to the air ambulance in Lairg.
 - Lynx Bone, Smoo & Borrallie Caves. No Results have been received as yet.
 - Puffin Link. Donald is to ask Peter Mackay for a quote to replace cables.
 - Telephone List. The new telephone lists are now available in both shops.
 - Pre-Gritting. No decision has yet been reached by the H.C. Cllr. Morrison reported that the response from the public and C.C's has been huge.
 - M.o.D. John Thurso M.P. has tried to chase up the pathology report on the stranded whales- the minister has advised him that it will be published soon.
 - Speed restrictions in Laid. Alan is to write to Rob Gibson MSP on behalf of Durness C.C. and a letter will be sent from Laid Grazing Committee after their AGM next month.
4. **Reports.**
 - **D.D.G.**

Eriboll Harbour, the application to the Big Lottery, Investing in Idea's fund has been rejected. An application to Scottish Sea Farms Heart of the Community Fund is to be submitted to raise funds for the wave study, which will inform the design of the harbour. 1 Bard Terrace has been let and is now occupied. The Village Hall Committee have committed to progressing the Health Hub and are looking into updating their Constitution. Funding applications for the continuance of the LDO posts is currently being undertaken.
 - **N.W.H.Geopark**

The Geopark has now taken over the building at Marrick; it is to open as a café and gift shop. Unfortunately the building is not big enough to hold the rock collection, but it will give the Geopark a public presence.

- **Treasurers Report.**
C.C. balance is £ 1383.83. £180 paid for secretarial duties & £15 for website domain name. £20 has been received from sale of books and £23 from sale of phone cards.
- **North West Sutherland Local Health Partnership (NWSLHP).**
Kevin has resigned from the NWSLHP; the next meeting will be this Thursday- no one was available to attend. **Action:** A new representative will be sought at next months meeting.
- **The North West Sutherland Trust,** Creag Riabhach Wind farm. The planning application has been referred to the Scottish Executive. Neil has been asked to forward the C.C's supporting letter to all relevant bodies.

5. **Planning Applications.**

101 Laid, erection of a new house and access with private drainage. There were no objections.

6. **Uncollected Refuse in Laid.**

There is no longer any rubbish in evidence.

7. **Balnakeil Graveyard.**

Cllr. Morrison reported that the road squad are rebuilding the dyke every Friday.

8. **A.O.B.**

- **Transport Seminar, Lairg.** This took place last week, it was announced that school and transport routes contracts will be out to tender this year. There will be a public meeting in Durness on March 17th.
- **Deer Management Plan.** Please email any comments to Sarah. Scott asked why the M.o.D. are not involved in this survey as over shooting on the range will impact on neighbouring estates.
- **Impeded sight lines.** Various addresses on Sangomore are to be contacted to ask permission to trim trees, which impede sightlines.
- **Bus Shelter.** A site, preferably near the public toilets in the village centre needs to be identified.
- **Laid Grazing's AGM.** Laid Grazing's Committee has issued an invite to the C.C. Chair to the AGM on Monday 6th April.
- **German Film of Durness.** Eddie asked if he could show the film in Smoo Cave Hotel. Hugh suggested the Village Hall would be a better venue. Scott suggested showing the film in the Visitor Centre during the summer. Eddie is to contact the film company to ask if they could add subtitles.
- **Advertising the Parish.** Scott suggested a photo competition, with a small prize which would provide photo's for the new website and the top 12 could be made into a calendar.
- **M.o.D. hard standings.** Scott reported that the M.o.D. are planning building hard standings beside the road on the Capeside- this may indicate heavy usage of the

road. The C.C. to ask that help with road repairs could take place at the same time. The bridge at Daill also needs repairing.

- **Resignation of C.C. Chair.** Kevin Crowe has resigned as C.C. Chair as he is moving out of the area. Kevin stated that he has thoroughly enjoyed his time on the C.C and thanked everyone for their support over the years and thanked Cllr. Morrison for all of his assistance. Scott thanked Kevin for all of his hard work over the years and all agreed that his enthusiasm and hard work will be missed. Sarah read out an email from P.C. Sutherland thanking Kevin for his work with the C.C.
- **Election of new Chair.** Anne nominated Donald and was seconded by Neil. Neil then nominated Scott and was seconded by Eddie. Donald stated that he would prefer to remain as vice-chair, Scott was elected as Chair.

9. **Date of next meeting.** Monday 13th April at 7.30pm.