

Minutes of the Meeting of Durness Community Council, Monday 5th January

at 7.30pm Durness Village Hall.

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

Apologies: PC Ian Sutherland & Cllr. George Farlow.

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** The Minutes of the November meeting were passed by Anne Mackenzie & Eddie Meyer. The minutes of the December meeting were passed by Donald Mitchell and Alan Andrews.

3. **Matters Arising.**

- Ambulance & Air Ambulance Provision. No Further information has been received. **Action:** Kevin to enquire of any progress from KLB C.C.
- Lynx Bone, Smoo & Borrallie Caves. No Results have been received as yet.
- Puffin Link. Peter Mackay has refused the offer of expenses for maintaining the puffin link this Year. **Action:** Sarah to send thank you email. Action; Donald is to contact Andy Summers about the potential for a joint application with Lochinver for further funding.
- Telephone List. The list is almost ready to print.
- M.o.D. Kevin as contacted John Thurso M.P. to see if he can find out why the publication of the Marine Mammals report has been delayed. John Thurso M.P. has replied that he will look into this.
- Cape Wrath Slipway & road. Action; Kevin to contact H.C. regarding funding supplied by the M.o.D. for maintenance of the Capeside road. Action; Cllr. Morrison to raise the state of the slipway with the H.C. at the meeting on Jan 15th.
- Kyle of Durness oyster farm. Planning permission has been granted with environmental caveats for this development. Donald Mitchell expressed his continued concern.
- Speed restrictions in Laid. P.C. Sutherland suggested contacting our MSP. Alan stated that Laid Grazing Committee are looking into putting up "Welcome to Laid Please Drive Carefully" signs and will ask the H.C. for permission to erect. A petition in support of speed restrictions is to be raised and the C.C. will write a letter of support for these proposals.

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. Albyn Housing are currently dealing with enquiries for the letting of 1 Bard Terrace.
- **N.W.H.Geopark**
The next Board meeting will take place on 15th Jan. An updated Business Plan has been produced and a proposed events schedule put forward for 2015. **Action:** Kevin to circulate and feed back any responses to the Geopark.
- **Treasurers Report.**

C.C. balance is £ 1532.83. Expenditure - £37.79 Light up the Highlands, £ 117.00 Remembrance Day, £250.00 Hall Rental, £180.00 Secretarial Fees. **Action:** Kevin to ask that the Geopark now pay their own Hall fees and to provide Lucy with an address to sent future bills too.

- **North West Sutherland Local Health Partnership (NWSLHP).**
Action: Kevin to chase up provision of Mobile Dental Services.
The North West Sutherland Trust, Creag Riabhach Wind farm. The planning application has been referred to the Scottish Executive.

5. Uncollected Refuse in Laid.

Alan reported that the owner of the property was unaware that rubbish was not being collected. **Action:** Alan to forward photo's to Kevin. **Action:** Eddie to forward the owners address to Cllr. Morrison.

6. Publicising the work of the C.C.

Action: Neil to look into purchasing a .scot web address.

7. Quad Bikes on Balnakeil beach.

Action: Kevin to contact Andrew Elliot and S.N.H. to suggest putting up signage indicating the delicate nature of dune systems.

Donald reported that someone from outwith the area took a quad bike onto the beach last Saturday.

8. A.O.B.

- **Wi-Fi at Hall.** DDG are currently looking into the cost of supplying unlimited Broadband at the Hall.
- **Friends of Sutherland Veterans.** Action: Sarah to contact Don Campbell about the recent letter from the Friends of Sutherland Veterans.
- **Core Paths Review.** Comments are invited before March 2015. **Action:** Sarah to forward the link to everyone again, responses are to go to Kevin for collation.
- **Rob Donn Grave.** Colin Coventry reported that bones could be seen emerging from the ground at Rob Donn's grave. Kevin reported that he could not see any bones but that the grave did require re-turfing. **Action:** Cllr .Morrison to request re-turfing.
- **Impeded sight lines.** Sightlines at the entrance to Balnakeil Craft Village are currently being impeded by Bushes. **Action:** Sarah to write to Cocoa Mountain asking that either they cut back the bushes or give permission for the C.C. to trim them twice yearly. Cllr. Morrison also reported that sightlines on the Caa are being impeded by a mound of earth.

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