

**Minutes of the Meeting of Durness Community Council, Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

**at 7.30pm Durness Village Hall.**

1. **Present:** Scott Macpherson *Chair*, Anne Mackenzie *Treasurer*, Donald Mitchell *Vice Chair*, Alan Andrews, Cllr. Hugh Morrison, and Sarah Fuller *Secretary*, Dr & Mrs Belbin, Sheila Frazer & members of the community.

**Apologies:** Eddie Meyer, Neil Fuller & P.C. George Silcock.

The Community Council meeting began with a presentation of a Lotte Glob sculpture and platter to Dr & Mrs Belbin. Chair of the C.C. Scott Macpherson thanked Dr Belbin on behalf of the community for the years of service, which he has unstintingly provided. The C.C. also presented flowers to Sarah Fuller who has also finished working as receptionist at the surgery. Refreshments were served after the presentation.

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** The Minutes of the March meeting were passed by Anne & Scott, with 2 corrections.

3. **Matters Arising.**

- North West Training Centre. Sheila Frazer outlined the current position of the N.W.T.C. which has failed to find core funding for this year and unfortunately Jane and Marlene have been forced to resign. The N.W.T.C. will be closed for the summer, but hopes to find funding to run courses this winter and employ someone to administer these courses for 5hrs/week. Cllr. Morrison suggested that the Ward Discretionary fund be applied to for funding for this year and also suggested linking up with the Geopark to run courses. Alan suggested the possibility of running Scottish Crofting Assoc. courses. Sheila will report back to the C.C. in Oct/Nov.
- Puffin Link. No funding is available for the puffin link. Donald estimated that puffin numbers are reduced by approx. 50% this year compared with last year.
- M.o.D. The Pilot Whale report has finally been published, the findings suggest there is circumstantial evidence which holds the M.o.D. responsible. The report also states that there is a non-explosive way of dealing with unexploded ordinance. **Action:** Donald to find out more about this. This August 7 items of unexploded ordinance are due to be dealt with. Major Halpin is leaving his position at the end of July; his replacement is to be invited to the next meeting.
- Speed restrictions in Laid. Nothing to report.
- Capeside Road. The M.o.D. contribution to road maintenance is assistance to the value of £6,000. Cllr. Morrison reported that the Ward Discretionary Budget will provide coal tar, the H.C. will transport it Capeside and James Mather and hopefully the M.o.D. will spread the tar.
- Health Board. The surgery hours now comply with NHS core hours and prescriptions will be available to collect 24/48 hours after ordering. A request from NHS Highland for a date for another public meeting was felt to be too soon following the aforementioned changes. This will be reviewed at the next meeting.

**4. Police Matters.**

Nothing to report.

**5. Reports.**

- **D.D.G.**

Research has been undertaken into forming a Community Interest Company, which could undertake trading, ie running of the health hub or a community brewery/distillery or harbour facility, in a tax efficient manner, which also allows for profits to be reinvested into the community.

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

Revalidation of membership of the European Geopark network has been put back to August.

- **Treasurers Report.**

C.C. balance is £ 1239.83.

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

No response has yet been received to the email requesting a change to the timing of these meetings.

**6. Ruby Run.** A successful start to the Ruby Run last week, Alan piped the cars out of the car park and Ronnie kindly took photos for the press. Cllr. Morrison has received an email of thanks.

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

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

- A meeting regarding the proposed replacement for Caladh Sona is to take place at the end of August. Two representatives of Durness C.C. will attend.
- The C.C. looked at the proposed plans by Wildland Ltd for the Hope, Loyal & Kinloch Estates.
- Cllr. Morrison stated that there is a possibility that the proposed Alltnaharra wind farm may go to the H.C. for approval this August.
- There are no Police, Allow Overtaking signs north of Rhiconich. **Action:** Cllr. Morrison to look into this.
- A proposal for a village information sign, outlining local activities/attractions and services and located outside the V.I.C. was suggested. Donald thought a frame for a sign is packed away inside the V.I.C. **Action:** Scott to look into this.

**9. Date of next meeting.** Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August at 7.30pm.