

**Minutes of the Meeting of Durness Community Council, Monday 7th April at 7.30pm Durness
Village Hall.**

1. **Present:** Kevin Crowe *Chair*, Anne Mackenzie *Treasurer*, Cllr. Hugh Morrison, Neil Fuller *Vice Chair*, Donald Mitchell, Sarah Fuller *Secretary*, PC Ian Sutherland.

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** The Minutes of the previous meeting were passed by Neil and seconded by Anne. The minutes of the February meeting were passed by Donald and seconded by Anne.

3. **Matters Arising.**

- Deer on Roads. Donald, Neil & Sarah visited the Reay Forest Estate and met Dougal Lindsay and David Allison who explained their comprehensive and progressive deer management policy. At present deer levels on the Reay Forest Estate stand at 8 deer/km sq.
- Ambulance & Air Ambulance Provision. The lights for the Air Ambulance are now in Durness. Parity of staffing levels are being actively pursued by KLB C.C. **Action;** Kevin to add this issue to the Agenda for the next Sutherland District Partnership and N.W.S.L.H.P. meetings.
- Lynx Bone, Smoo & Borralie Caves. No further progress
- Puffin Link. Donald is to apply to the Ward Discretionary fund. Cllr. Morrison suggested applying to the Bank of Scotland Community Fund as well.
- Memorial Garden. Cllr. Morrison has not had any reply as yet as to the ownership of the School Park.
- Telephone List. A draft of the new list is to be taken to the next meeting. **Action:** Sarah.
- M.o.D. Major Halpin (Rtd) has suggested that Liaison meetings only take place if there is an issue to deal with. After discussion it was decided to request regular meeting to foster positive links with the M.o.D.
- Housing. Renovations are on going at 1 Bard Terrace.
- Scottish Water & Smoo Cave. Kevin has had no reply to his previous email from Scottish Water. **Action:** Kevin to email again.

4. **Police matters.**

An incident has occurred in the last 10 days relating to speeding cars sounding their horns whilst passing horseriders. P.C. Sutherland has requested "Caution Horses" signs.

Action: Cllr. Morrison is to ask the H.C. to provide the signs.

Action: Kevin is to fill in and return the memo outlining the dangers of the new section of road at Laxford Bridge.

5. **Reports.**

- **D.D.G.**

Eriboll Harbour; The majority of the funding for market research to provide evidence of need has been secured, the result of the application to the SSE Fund is still awaited.

Housing; 1 Bard Terrace is currently being renovated in order to be returned to affordable social housing.

Health Hub; A Draft Service Agreement between DDG and the Hall Committee is being prepared and funding applications made for the remainder of the build costs.

- **N.W.H.Geopark**
Interim reports have been circulated, progress has been very positive. The new staff are now in place.
- **Treasurers Report.**
C.C. balance is £ 435.97p.
- **North West Sutherland Local Health Partnership (NWSLHP).**
Kevin has not attended the previous 2 meetings. We are still awaiting a reply from Dental Services regarding local provision of services. Kevin reported a general disillusionment with the lack of response from some managers to emails.

6. **Planning Applications.**

There are no relevant planning applications this month.

7. **Highland Council Service Points.**

All Service Points have been given a 15 month reprieve. A H.C. Working Board made up of 10 Councillors (Including Cllr. Morrison) has been established to look at future service provision.

8. **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.

9. **A.O.B.**

- **Election.** The C.C. is to hold an interim election to replace members. Action: Kevin is to email Robbie Bain to set the C.C. Election process in motion.
- **Plastics on Beaches.** Colin Morrison has been researching the levels of plastic found on Scottish Beaches, he found 69 particles/kg of sand. Colin also found many M.o.D. harnesses washed up on the shoreline, he has sent a letter to Major Halpin (Rtd) and Whitehall. Action: Neil is to forward the email to Kevin.
- **Village Litter.** Cllr. Morrison is to look into the large amounts of roadside litter currently evident around the village. Cllr. Morrison reported that dual purpose bins are to be supplied for public carparks to help visitors dispose of rubbish and recycling.

Donald reported that the old dump site has been tidied up very well.

10. **Date of next meeting.** Monday 28th April at 7.30pm.