

## Minutes of the Durness Community Council,

Monday 2nd December 2013 at 7.30pm - Durness Village Hall.

1. **Present:** Kevin Crowe *Chair*, Anne Mackenzie *Treasurer*, Neil Fuller, Donald Mitchell, Denise McNamara, Nick Barth, Cllr Hugh Morrison, Annie Tunnicliffe – [Cape Wrath Business plan].
2. **Apologies:** Sarah Fuller, PC Ian Sutherland.

The chairman invited Annie Tunnicliffe to address the council prior to commencing the agenda.

Annie discussed the DRAFT Cape Wrath business plan at length with the community council, bringing the main points and findings to our attention. She was positive about the potential ability of the project to attract funding; it fits the funding strands and is almost at the stage of applying for stage 1. If the Lighthouse board proceed with the sale this could be triggered quickly, giving 6 months to respond. The plan is still in its draft form and final details could not be printed here; it was fully discussed at the meeting however.

The chair summed up the group's opinion when stating that he thought it an exciting document with great potential for local businesses and training schemes / projects for many. Annie was roundly thanked for her efforts so far.

Annie then left the meeting.

The Agenda was resumed;

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved by AM and seconded by NF.

### **3. Matters arising;**

- **Air ambulance** – No response to letters. Cllr HM reported that Bond helicopters are no longer using KLB helipad. However the chairman informed us that in conversation a Pilot had proposed the Durness football pitch as a usable site. KC to clarify for next meeting.
- **Borrallie bone carbon dating** – Dr. Andrew Kitchener is still waiting to hear from Historic Scotland.
- **Puffin link** – DM has written to URS [Smoo rock contractors] to ask about possibly sponsoring the CCTV. KC suggested PESGB as possible sponsors – KC to pass on info' to DM.
- **Housing** – The DD Group will be proceeding with this; plan for 3 houses to be discussed; the value of the site is around £38,000.
- **Bard Terrace** – DDG have applied for further funding for improvements prior to selling.
- **Memorial garden** – [all weather pitch site]; KC to invite Kevin Arrowsmith to take this on [and to attend a CC meeting?].
- **Local telephone list** – new list being compiled, presently in shops for updating.
- **Eriboll Pier** – NF will report at next meeting.
- **Rispond pier access** – no response to our letter.
- **Graffiti on road signs** – Cllr HM will speak to TECS .
- **Armistice day** – Well attended and successful despite strong winds; NF offered to attend to the matter of fastenings. Cllr HM offered to supply ties.
- **Deer hazard on roads** – no response to our letter; more recent incidents and a general opinion that the relevant Estates may be unconcerned.

- **Community Council training day** – AM will report to next meeting.
  - **MoD** – No contact from Maj David Halpin yet. Lack of annual liaison meeting and MoD Conservation group meeting remains a mystery.
4. **Police matters;** PC Ian Sutherland passed on an e-mail from the ex-wife of William Elvin, who died recently in the village. The e-mail expressed the family's grateful thanks to be extended to those within the Durness community who provided William with the essentials he required and for the security he felt there. A funeral service was held in Edinburgh on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November. His daughters are planning to visit Durness soon and would like to meet with those who knew William.
5. **Reports.**
- DDG – NF will report fully at next meeting.
  - Geopark – Funding for 2yrs has been confirmed by the Scottish Government, HIE presently hold the money. A donation of £19,000 was received from Petroleum ??? Two full time positions have been advertised, for a geo-scientist and an office manager. The next meeting of the Geopark will be held in Durness on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January at 10.30am.
  - Treasurer's report – same balance as of last meeting.
  - NW Sutherland Local Health Partnership – Mobile dentist; KC will be attending a meeting soon along with councillors from the area and the district partnership committee.
6. **Planning** – Kitchen extension at Mackays rooms & restaurant – no objections.
7. **Light up the Highlands** – members were reminded that this was to take place in the hall tomorrow evening.
8. **North highland way** – There is a meeting with interested parties next Tuesday. The H.C. position seems to be similar to that of the DCC. KC will report to the next CC meeting.
9. **Any other relevant business;**
- Review of polling places – The CC has no problem with the use of the hall. There was a request to ensure that the staffing will be by personnel entirely neutral to the area and that on arrival all voters will be properly instructed on how to place their votes.
  - Nick B appears not to be on the local registrar of electors – to be discussed.
  - The possibility of stationing a lifeboat on Loch Eriboll was raised; NF suggested asking for a trial boat. The value of having a lifeboat in this area was very clear; the matter to be discussed again.
  - The lack of access to the shore around Loch Eriboll for locals and visitors alike was also raised.

D.M 4.12.2013.