

Minutes of the Meeting of Durness Community Council, Monday 3rd February at 7.30pm Durness Village Hall.

1. **Present:** Anne Mackenzie *Treasurer*, Cllr. Hugh Morrison, Neil Fuller *Vice Chair*, Donald Mitchell, Denise McNamara, Sarah Fuller *Secretary*, PC Ian Sutherland.
Apologies: Kevin Crowe *Chair*, Nick Barth.
2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved by Anne Mackenzie and seconded by Neil Fuller.
3. **Matters Arising.**
 - Ambulance & Air Ambulance Provision. The public meeting held in KLB High School on Weds. 15th Jan was very well attended. The lack of equity between the KLB & Lochinver ambulance staffing levels was raised- both serve similar population numbers and have similar call out rates. Air Ambulance; the lights for the landing area are due to arrive in Inverness very soon.
 - Lynx Bone, Smoo & Borrallie Caves. Colin had invited Neil to view the excavations below the flow stone in Smoo Cave. Neil showed pictures which Colin had provided.
 - Puffin Link. No further progress.
 - Memorial Garden. Kevin had met with Kevin Arrowsmith(DDG) and discussed the possibility of an all- weather pitch. This was felt to be too expensive and prone to damage. The option of evening lighting for the school playing field is to be looked into. **Action:** Cllr. Morrison is to find out who owns the land.
 - Telephone List. Amendments are to be undertaken **Action:** Sarah.
 - Deer on Roads. 3 C.C. members are to visit the Reay Forest Estate on 11th March. **Action:** Sarah to email & confirm. An email has been received from Gualin Estate, Duncan Shaw is to attend the next C.C. meeting.
 - M.o.D. Kevin has received a reply from David Halpin, the date of the next Liaison Meeting will be set within the next month.
4. **Police matters.**

In the previous 3 months, 12% of all calls to Rhiconich Police Station came from Durness. One of these calls raised the issue of children cycling without helmets, although this is not a legal requirement it is to be encouraged. P.C. Sutherland offered to help out with cycle training during the spring/summer.
5. **Reports.**
 - **D.D.G.**

The posts of Local Development officers have attracted funding for another 18 months.

Eriboll Harbour; The road map of how to undertake a large infrastructure project is now complete. Funding applications for market research to provide evidence of need are currently being undertaken.

Cape Wrath proposed community purchase; figures are currently being sought to feed into the business plan. DDG have had discussions with the NLB and an architect has visited the site.

- **N.W.H.Geopark**
Appointments have been made for the 2 positions previously advertised.
- **Treasurers Report.**
C.C. balance is £ 435.97p.
- **North West Sutherland Local Health Partnership (NWSLHP).** KLB High School have stated that they have no problem with adults visiting the mobile dentist on their property. The C.C. are still awaiting the response from NHS Highland.

6. Planning Applications.

There are no relevant planning applications this month.

7. North Highland Way.

The results of the Highland Councils consultation are still awaited.

8. Ozone Café Plans.

A letter has been received from John Ure of the Ozone Café at Cape Wrath asking for the C.C.'s support for his plans to acquire the building he currently leases. All were in favour.

Action: Sarah to write a letter of support.

9. Scottish water & Smoo Cave.

Colin Coventry has raised the issue of the sluice gate being shut at Loch Meadaidh following recent work by Global Infrastructure. Colin has permission from the landowner to open the sluice gate to avoid flash floods in the cave. A supportive email from Ann Hackett (H.C. Planning & Development Service) has been received, but there has still been no response from Scottish Water. **Action:** Kevin to chase this up.

10. Online Publishing of Minutes & Campaigns.

Durness C.C. no longer have the option of publishing the minutes on the www.durness.org website. The minutes will be published on the www.developingdurness.org in the interim whilst the possibilities for a new C.C. website are explored. Action: Kevin, Neil & Anne are to look into options.

11. A.O.B.

- No overnight parking sign at the V.I.C. car park. Individual traffic orders may be needed for each sign, which would then be enforceable by local by-laws. Cllr. Morrison reported that this issue is being reported throughout the area.
- Currently papers get to Tongue by taxi at 10am every Sunday. Cllr. Morrison is to look into the possibilities of a distribution network and local pick up points.
- An advertisement in 'Boats & Motors' for a boat being sold in Lerin is totally spurious.
- The engineer in charge of the new road at Laxford Bridge is to return to assess complaints by 3 C.C.'s. Cllr. Morrison has asked that the C.C.'s be informed when the

visit is to take place. P.C. Sutherland has provided complaint forms for the C.C's to fill in.

- Cllr. Morrison brought along a copy of the Scourie news, a publication which is circulated by email at the beginning of each month. All agreed that it was a good idea and Durness C.C. will look into producing a similar publication.
- C.C. Resignation. Denise McNamara has resigned from the C.C. with immediate effect. Neil thanked Denise for all her efforts on behalf of the C.C. over the last 2 years.

12. Date of next meeting. Monday 3rd March at 7.30pm, Durness Village Hall.