

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

1. **Present:** Anne Mackenzie *Treasurer*, Cllr. Hugh Morrison, Neil Fuller *Vice Chair*, Donald Mitchell, Nick Barth, Sarah Fuller *Secretary*, Duncan Shaw, *Gualin Estate*.
Apologies: Kevin Crowe *Chair*, PC Ian Sutherland.
2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** The Minutes of the previous meeting could not be approved, as the meeting was not quorate. The following minutes are for note only.
3. **Matters Arising.**
 - Deer on Roads. Duncan Shaw of Gualin Estate attended to appraise Durness C.C. of their deer management policy. Duncan stated that the Estate comprises 7,000 acres but only bounds the road by 0.5 of a mile. Duncan also stated that deer management has taken place very recently along this roadside and also on Keodale & Balnakeil ground. Duncan stressed that deer numbers are currently much lower than they were 30 years ago and that the current large culls which are taking place are having a detrimental effect on the food chain and local habitats. The deer management plan was updated recently and SNH were thought to be compiling a policy for the whole of the northwest 2 years ago but it has not yet been published. Neil thanked Duncan for attending and explaining the policy on behalf of Gualin Estate.
 - Ambulance & Air Ambulance Provision. Cllr. Morrison reported that a patient waiting for transport to hospital very recently suffered a long wait as the KLB ambulance could not attend due to being single manned and the Bettyhill ambulance broke down on route. A meeting is to take place in KLB tomorrow night regarding the huge inequalities of staffing provision between KLB and LochInver ambulances- both of whom attended around 130 last year, LochInver currently has 6 crew whereas KLB has 3.
 - Lynx Bone, Smoo & Borrallie Caves. No further progress
 - Puffin Link. No further progress.
 - Memorial Garden. Cllr. Morrison is to find out who owns the School park.
 - Telephone List. A draft of the new list is to be taken to the next meeting. **Action:** Sarah.
 - M.o.D. The date of the next Liaison Meeting has not yet been finalised.
4. **Police matters.**

Nothing to report
5. **Reports.**
 - **D.D.G.**

Eriboll Harbour; Funding applications for market research to provide evidence of need are currently being undertaken.

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

Health Hub; Members of DDG recently met with members of the Village Hall Committee to discuss management options for the proposed Health Hub. Partial funding has been secured for this project, funding applications for the remainder are currently being undertaken.

- **N.W.H.Geopark**
Nothing to Report.
- **Treasurers Report.**
C.C. balance is £ 435.97p.
- **North West Sutherland Local Health Partnership (NWSLHP).**
Nothing to report.

6. Planning Applications.

There are no relevant planning applications this month.

7. North Highland Way.

The results of the Highland Councils consultation have been published, this suggested a community approach to development.

8. Highland Council Service Points.

Cllr. Morrison reported that the closure of the Durness Service point is to take place a year before all of the other Service Points are closed is due to skewed usage figures, because all queries and complaints have to be forwarded from other offices.

9. Online Publishing of Minutes & Campaigns.

The minutes are now published on the www.developingdurness.org website. An email is to be circulated regarding bills for website advertising.

10. A.O.B.

- C.C. Resignation. Nick Barth has resigned from the C.C. with immediate effect. Neil thanked Nick for all his efforts on behalf of the C.C.

11. Date of next meeting. To be confirmed.