

**Minutes of the Meeting of Durness Community Council, Monday 6th May at 7.30pm Durness
Village Hall.**

1. **Present:** Kevin Crowe *Chair*, Anne Mackenzie *Treasurer*, Donald Mitchell, Nick Barth, Sarah Fuller *Secretary*, Cllr. Hugh Morrison.
Apologies: Neil Fuller & Denise McNamara, PC Sutherland.
Absent: Francis Keith

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.**

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved by Anne Mackenzie and seconded by Nick Barth with one amendment.

3. **Matters Arising.**

- Housing. No progress as yet.
- M.O.D. The Report on the beached whales is still to be finalised
- Puffin Link. No progress on funding for next year. Peter Mackay has been to set up the system for this year.
- Rob Donn Memorial. David Morrison is currently discussing a publication of a new edition of Rob Donn's work with the Gaelic Book Council. Any monies left from the memorial restoration are to be passed on to the Gaelic Book Council to further this.
- Ambulance & Air Ambulance Provision. No response from Andrew Moir as yet. The Coastguard are to be consulted about provision of lighting for the air ambulance.
- Erection of Flagpole. No further progress.
- Lynx Bone, Smoo & Borralie Caves. The reports are to be added to the Smoo Cave and Durness websites. The Highland Council have been contacted by an English University with a request to study the archaeology and geology of this area.
- Keodale Risk Assessment. Still to be undertaken. A discussion ensued regarding the lack of facilities at the ferry point. Cllr. Morrison is to look into siting of seating and/or picnic benches at Keodale. Sarah is to contact the Northern Lighthouse Board for permission to site 2 picnic tables and 1 bench at the Lighthouse.
- X Ray Machine. No progress as yet.
- Balnakeil Beach dog litter bin. Cllr. Morrison will request a bin and also look into a dustbin and kerbside recycling bin.
- Public Transport Meeting, March. The Lairg train link is to be further discussed. The North West transport links are currently being addressed to improve services in this immediate area.
- Graham & Jill's Party. The Community Council wish to thank everyone who helped to make this a successful and memorable evening.
- Durness Postie. No response has been received to the letter.
- Tree Planting. 451 trees were planted. Thanks to all who participated in this event, the school children, crew of HMS Sutherland and volunteers. Kevin is to write to the Durness mess team expressing our thanks.

- Defibrillator. Dr Belbin will lend a defibrillator to the Cape Wrath Challenge for the marathon event.
- Dog Walking. Donald has the advice to dog walkers signs. Signs are to be put up at Sango Beach.
- Cape Wrath road maintenance. The Highland Council are to assess the state of the road following the recent M.o.D. exercise. David Halpin has offered help improving the car park at Keodale green.

4. Reports.

- **D.D.G.**

The Community Right to buy Re-registration of interest for the Durness Visitor Centre has been submitted to the Scottish Government for approval. Part funding has been secured for the renovation of Bard Terrace.

- **Geopark.**

A unconfirmed date of mid-July has been set for re-validation with the European Geopark Network. Funding options for the Geopark are being pursued.

- **Treasurers Report.**

The Durness C.C. bank balance currently stands at £1,352.99
Some money from website adverts has been received.

5. Creag Riabhach Wind Farm Proposal.

Kevin has sent a letter of support for this proposal. Neil is to be asked to be the future contact for this.

6. Durness Diggers.

The Durness Diggers have re-sited the proposed poly tunnel, Kevin is to discover where this is. Volunteers for preparing the base and erecting the poly tunnel are in place. Funds of £1,300.00 are being sought. Durness C.C. are to donate £100.00 towards this project. Kevin is to discover if the Parent Council have funds which could be donated and also if the H.C. education department have any funds. Sarah is to look into other sources of funding.

7. New Sutherland Website.

A new website for Sutherland is being launched : www.visitsutherland.org.

A request for information has been received, Kevin is to contact Ronnie Lansley to find out how to upload information to the site.

8. Cape Wrath Trail Co.

An email has been received from John Hutchinson outlining the aims of the Cape Wrath Trail Co. and asking for input from relevant local communities. Durness C.C. will become an affiliated member. Neil is to be the contact for the C.C.

9. A.O.B.

- Parking at Hames Place. Cllr. Morrison is to hold a meeting with Ian Moncrieff regarding this issue. Numbers 1 & 2 Hames Place currently have no designated parking and if the occupants park on the pavement outside of their houses access to

the rest of Hames Place by large vehicles, such as the Fire Appliance, Bin Lorry and Gritter is difficult. The C.C. unanimously agreed that the parking spaces opposite the Bike Hub be allocated to those without private parking.

- Protruding stones at the bend in Sangobeag. Nick reported that numerous people have had flat tyres at this point. Cllr Morrison will report this issue.
- Donald asked if the C.C. could look into siting a memorial to the airmen killed on Cranstackie during WW2. Cllr. Morrison will look into ownership of the car park and siting for a memorial and bench on the Gualin. .
- Road works will begin at Laxford Bridge on Monday 13th May for 13 weeks

10. Date of Next Meeting. Monday 3rd June at 7.30pm, Durness Village Hall.