

**Minutes of the Meeting of Durness Community Council, Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 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*.

**Apologies:** Nick Barth, Denise McNamara, PC Ian Sutherland.

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.**

- Housing. **Action:** Neil to contact Morven Taylor of the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust.
- Ambulance & Air Ambulance Provision. Andrew Moir has arranged for a senior pilot to visit the area next week to identify possible landing sites and may bring lights with him. **Action:** Kevin is to contact Alec Morrison (Coastguard) to co-ordinate with the pilot. It is now possible that the community may not have to contribute to the cost of the lighting, although this is yet to be confirmed. Durness may also have to provide coverage for KLB as a health and safety issue has been raised with regard to their landing site.
- Lynx Bone, Smoo & Borralie Caves. Dr Kitchener has stated that although Historic Scotland are interested in funding this project it may have to be put on hold until the next financial year when more funds will become available.
- Puffin Link. RJ Macleod Construction at Strathy Wind farm have a benevolent fund with £100 available each accident free month **Action:** Hugh is to find out if Durness is included. **Action:** Donald is to ask for a donation from the company who recently undertook the work at Smoo Cave. It was suggested that local businesses may wish to sponsor the puffin link, a request is to be sent out with the website invoices next year.
- Third Sector Awards. There is no information available as to who won.
- Memorial Garden. **Action:** Neil is to look into potential funding and siting for an all-weather multipurpose pitch with lighting
- Telephone List. A copy of the current list is to be displayed in the shop for amendments to be made. **Action:** Sarah.
- Graffiti on Road Signs. The Council are going to take the signs down and attempt to clean them.
- Rispond Harbour. No response has yet been received.
- Flag Pole. **Action:** Hugh is to look into the cost of erecting a flag pole in the Memorial Garden.
- The Scottish Ambulance Service Information Links Report has been received. **Action:** Kevin is to read and summarise at the next meeting.

#### **4. Police matters.**

There is nothing to report.

#### **5. Reports.**

- **D.D.G.**

Two consultants have been assigned by HIE to assist DDG with writing a business plan for the potential buyout of the Land around the Lighthouse at Cape Wrath and for the construction of a Harbour at Loch Eriboll. Annie Tunnicliffe of Luing Consultancy is to be invited to the next CC meeting to discuss Cape Wrath. A successful Duathlon took place in October which has raised £642 towards the Durness Health Hub project.

- **N.W.H.Geopark.**

Funding from the Scottish Government has been confirmed for the next two years and will be managed by HIE and the positions of Geoscientist and Business Manager are to be advertised imminently, expressions of interest are expected by 28<sup>th</sup> November. The Geopark is currently recruiting for new members.

- **Treasurers Report.**

A bill for the Hall Of £90 has been paid and income of £300 has been received from the website and booklets.

C.C. balance is £ 972.56p.

- North West Sutherland Local Health Partnership ( NWSLHP). The next meeting is to take place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November. The petition in support of local provision of dental services received 145 signatures and an article appeared in the Northern Times. Cllr. Morrison also brought up the issue of travel time and missing school time when children visit the mobile dentist in KLB , this can amount to one and a half hours for a ten minute appointment.

#### **6. Planning Applications.**

There are no relevant planning applications this month.

#### **7. Armistice Day.**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November. The Service begins at 10.50am.

#### **8. Light up a Life.**

This year Light up a Life has been renamed Light up the Highlands and will take place on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

- 9. Community Council Vacancy.** A letter has been received from Eddie Meyer enquiring about a vacancy on Durness CC. Unfortunately there is no vacancy as both co-opted positions are currently filled.

#### **10. North Highland Way.**

A letter has been received from Tina Irving of Brough Bay Ltd asking that Durness CC take responsibility for a Friends of the North Highland Way website. After discussion it was felt that the CC has no resources to fund such an initiative. Although Durness CC support the idea of the North Highland Way it was felt that all the relevant CC's and voluntary bodies along the proposed route should have input into the proposals. **Action:** Kevin is to forward the views of the CC to Tina Irving.

## 11. A.O.B.

- A letter has been received inviting members of the CC. to attend training sessions. The closest is in Lairg on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 5.30-7.30pm, Anne is to attend.
- Alan Miller, Area Manager of the Scottish Ambulance Service has written to Cllr. Morrison regarding the difficulties filling the vacant Ambulance technician position in KLB. It was felt that because this position is part-time it is difficult for anyone to afford accommodation. **Action:** Kevin is to raise this issue at the NWSLHP meeting this week.
- Donald reported a large pot-hole in the car park on the Caa, Cllr. Morrison reported that it was fixed today.
- Concern over the large numbers of deer on all of the roads in the area has been raised as there have been a large number of near accidents recently. **Action:** Sarah is to write to the Reay Forest Estate. **Action:** Cllr. Morrison is to encourage other CC's to do likewise.
- 5p Fuel Rebate. The reason that Durness was initially left out was due to Civil Servants assuming that IV27 referred to only one village, the IV27 area is now to be included in the application.
- Ward Forum Meeting. Cllr. Morrison recently attended this meeting which dealt with Police and Fire Brigade issues. Cllr. Morrison reported that there are difficulties training Fire Brigade members as there are not enough trainers at present. The suggestion of a multi-Agency hub in Inverness covering the NHS, Fire Brigade and Water Services was suggested as a way to reduce costs.
- Core Paths. Culverts and ditching are to be repaired before December by I J & J Plant.
- Liaison Meeting. **Action:** Kevin is to try again to contact David Halpin with regard to the date of the next meeting. **Action:** Cllr. Morrison to pass on current email details.
- Pot Hole at Carbreck. A large pot hole was reported at the right hand side of the road on the approach to Carbreck. **Action:** Cllr. Morrison to pass on to local TEC Services.
- Sallachy Wind Farm. Cllr. Morrison reported that a community benefit fund is to be set up with funds from the proposed Sallachy Wind Farm. Two options are proposed:- Tap into a pot when needed or Drip feed every year ( approx. 10% per CC) for 25 years. It was felt that either option was preferable.

**12. Date of next meeting.** Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 7.30pm, Durness Village Hall.