

Minutes of the Meeting of Durness Community Council, Monday 7th October at 7.30pm Durness Village Hall.

1. **Present:** Kevin Crowe *Chair*, Anne Mackenzie *Treasurer*, Denise McNamara, Neil Fuller, Donald Mitchell, Sarah Fuller *Secretary*.

Apologies: Nick Barth, Cllr. Hugh Morrison.

Absent: Francis Keith

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

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved by Anne Mackenzie and seconded by Denise McNamara.

3. **Matters Arising.**

- Housing. **Action:** Neil to contact Morven Taylor of the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust.
- Ambulance & Air Ambulance Provision. £1,000 has been donated towards the cost of lighting from the Marty Mackay Memorial Fund. The Community Council thank Roberta & family and Mary & Martin for this very generous donation. Kevin has let Andrew Moir know that a quarter of the proposed cost has been found and has pressed for an early conclusion to this issue.
- 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. **Action:** Donald is to look into possible fundraising options to support the Puffin Link. A collection box is to be constructed (**Action:** Denise) and sited next to the monitor. Donald is also to explore the possibility of recoding images to show when there is no puffin activity.
- Ward Forum Meeting. Kevin is to attend the next Ward Forum Meeting, Saturday 26th October in Lairg to ask why the Ambulance Technician job currently being advertised is not full-time?
- Third Sector Awards. Will take place on 10th October.
- Memorial Garden. **Action:** Neil is to look into potential funding and siting for an all-weather multipurpose pitch with lighting
- Broken Sewer pipe. This issue now appears to be resolved.
- Telephone List. A copy of the current list is to be displayed in the shop for amendments to be made. **Action:** Sarah.
- Community Council Scheme Evaluation Report. Kevin outlined the changes which have been made to election and operating procedures. The H.C. is to provide training for C.C's in future. All agreed that they were sensible and workable changes. Kevin was thanked for summarising the Report for everyone.
- Graffiti on Road Signs. Cllr. Morrison is to report at the next meeting.

4. Police matters.

An incident occurred last weekend in which a mobility Scooter was damaged.

5. Reports.

- **D.D.G.**

Kevin Arrowsmith is to attend the next meeting to discuss the proposals for Cape Wrath.

HISEZ & D.D.G. have completed the Economic Impact Assessment for the Loch Eriboll Harbour project, it is available to read on www.developingdurness.org.

The Local Development Officer positions funding ends this December and to try and ensure further support project plans have been prepared and submitted to H.I.E.

A consultant is coming to help DDG prepare a Business Plan for the potential Community Buyout of the land around the lighthouse at Cape Wrath. Kevin kindly offered to host a meeting at Loch Croispol Bookshop on Monday 14th October in order to introduce the consultant to members of the C.C. & DDG.

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

Funding from the Scottish Government has been confirmed for the next two years and job descriptions for the two full-time employees being prepared.

- **Treasurers Report.**

Bills totalling £ 2,052.50p have been paid for the Puffin Link, Geopark Travel Expenses, Web Space and Poppy Wreaths.

C.C. balance is £ 762.56p.

- North West Sutherland Local Health Partnership (NWSLHP). Kevin and Dr Belbin attended via video conference. The question was raised by the C.C. as to why there is no longer Dental Service provision in Durness even though the facility for electric and water provision still exist at the Surgery. A petition is to be placed in the shops and Surgery in support of this and evidence of the economic effects of cost of travel and time off work, both to employer and employee are to be detailed in anonymous case studies to back up the petition.

- Highland Leader Report. This Report highlighted areas in which Leader had invested in the Highlands, the most notable cases in our area were the Lochinver Fisherman's Mission and the composting toilet on Handa.

6. Planning Applications.

Siting has been applied for a holiday caravan at 73 Lerin. There were no objections.

7. Armistice Day.

Monday 11th November. Graham is to be asked to read the service as usual (**Action:** Kevin) and if unable to attend the Rev Mann will be invited. Don is to be asked to put up notices and a local establishment asked to provide refreshments (**Action:** Anne). The Coastguard, Fire Brigade, Representatives of the Armed Forces and The British Legion are to be invited.

8. Light up a Life.

This year Light up a Life has been renamed Light up the Highlands and the provisional date is Tuesday 3rd December.

9. A.O.B.

- The Highland Road Safety Seminar is to take place in Inverness on November 22nd.
- The Scottish Civic Trust Conference is to take place on November 5th.
- The Scottish Ambulance Service Information Links Report has been received. **Action:** Kevin is to read and summarise at the next meeting.
- The Licensing Board Overprovision Consultation Document has been received. After discussion it was agreed that the status quo was preferred and that the Licensing Board be left to make its own decisions.
- Difficulties in access to Rispond Harbour have been brought to the attention of the C.C. **Action:** Sarah is to write to the owner asking for clarification.
- Denise reported that the beach clean-up in Laid on 29th September went very well.
- A member of the community has asked that the old walkways at Smoo Cave be removed. **Action:** Neil is to speak to the owner.
- A Dry Stone Dyker from Caithness has reported that the dykes at Sangobeag are of a very unusual design and is keen to run courses in order for them to be maintained.

10. Date of next meeting. Monday 4th November at 7.30pm, Durness Village Hall.