

Minutes of the Meeting of Durness Community Council, Monday 2nd September at 7.30pm Durness Village Hall.

1. **Present:** Kevin Crowe *Chair*, Anne Mackenzie *Treasurer*, Denise McNamara, Neil Fuller, Nick Barth, Cllr. Hugh Morrison, Sarah Fuller *Secretary*.

Apologies: Donald Mitchell.

Absent: Francis Keith

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

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved by Neil Fuller and seconded by Denise McNamara.

Note; Chair, Kevin Crowe has recently bought a new computer and whilst transferring data all C.C. correspondence from Dec. 2012 to date was lost.

3. **Matters Arising.**

- Housing. Neil to contact Morven Taylor of the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust.
- M.O.D. The Report on the beached whales is still awaited.
- Ambulance & Air Ambulance Provision. Andrew Moir has recently met with Kevin, it was an extremely useful and positive meeting. The cost of Lighting for the air ambulance is approx. £4,000, Kevin is pushing the Air Ambulance Service to cover the majority of the costs and the C.C. will explore other funding options. Kevin has also spoken to the local Coastguards who are very keen to help. Denise reported that the coastguard are currently exploring the possibility of siting a helipad in Laid.
- Lynx Bone, Smoo & Borrallie Caves. The C.C. and the National Museum of Scotland are to put a funding application together to enable 6 more bones to be carbon dated at a cost of £330 +VAT per bone. The N.W.H. Geopark are currently looking into linking the finds here with those in the bone caves at Inchnadamph along with the University of Birmingham.
- Keodale Risk Assessment & Cape Wrath Road. Cllr. Morrison reported that drainage work has been completed on the Capeside and the scalping's for next year's remedial work have been delivered and transferred across the Kyle. It was suggested that sweeping the loose gravel off the Capeside road would improve the situation and that the turning point on the Capeside slipway needs maintenance, Cllr Morrison will look into this at the start of next season.
- Durness Diggers. This project has been taken on by Durness Development Group.
- Memorial Garden. In order to address the on-going issue of children playing in the Memorial garden, Neil is to look into potential funding and siting for an all-weather multipurpose pitch with lighting. Cllr. Morrison is to pass on the relevant contact details to Neil with a view to applying for funding to the Commonwealth Games Fund.

4. **Police matters.**

Nick enquired about the graffiti on road signs which has been painted over, but is still visible. Cllr Morrison is to look into have the graffiti cleaned off.

5. Reports.

- **D.D.G.**

Highlands & Islands Social Enterprise Zone (HISEZ) have completed the Outline Development Plan for a potential community purchase for the land at Cape Wrath. The Plan is available to read on the Cape Wrath page of the new D.D.G. website, www.developingdurness.org. Kevin Arrowsmith is to be invited to the next meeting to discuss the proposals for Cape Wrath.

HISEZ are currently helping D.D.G. to update the Economic Impact Assessment for the Loch Eriboll Harbour project.

The Local Development Officer positions funding ends this December and to try and ensure further support from H.I.E. project plans are being prepared for submission by the end of September. The C.C. is to draft a letter to H.I.E. in support of continued funding.

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

The Revalidation process seemed to go very well and the decision on the status of the Geopark is imminent. Funding from the Scottish Government has been confirmed for the next two years and two fulltime employees are to be sought, a Geoscientist and a Geopark Administrator.

- **Treasurers Report.**

The H.C. grant has been received ; £876.47 which is £240.00 less than last year. Cllr. Morrison is to query the shortfall and Kevin is to email Andy Mackay (Ward manager) asking the same question.

£420.00 has been received from the website.

A bill from Ronnie has been received for the website, he is to be asked to provide a bill for time spent managing the website.

C.C. balance, £2,815.06p.

6. Sutherland District Partnership.

The next meeting to take place is Friday 4th October in Golspie and will discuss Service Delivery of Children's & Adults Services, a request for Agenda items has been received. After discussion two items are to be submitted, Dental Service Provision and the KLB Ambulance crew who lost a member of staff in May and are still running short staffed.

7. Third Sector Awards.

Kevin suggested nominating D.D.G. for the work on Cape Wrath. All agreed.

8. Ward Forum Meeting.

This meeting will take place on Saturday 26th October in Lairg and will discuss Police & Fire Services. Neil is to attend for the first hour, Nick may also attend.

9. A.O.B.

- The C.C. Scheme Evaluation Report has arrived, Kevin is to report at the next meeting.
- A build-up of rubbish at the village square and Ceannabeinne car park has been reported. Previously the skip driver emptied these bins in between the fortnightly collection to avoid mess, this has not happened this year.
- There is currently a broken sewer pipe between the Visitor Information Centre and the treatment plant which has caused a lot of mess. Kevin is to contact John Macleod, Area manager for Scottish Water.
- Nick asked that the salt bin and stone at the top of Johnnie Morrison's driveway in Sangobeag be moved in order to create a pull in so that people can stop to admire the view without blocking the road.
- The Telephone list is to be updated, Sarah is to undertake this.
- It was requested that the Agenda for C.C. meeting be sent out a week before the next meeting, this was agreed.
- Denise reported that a beach clean-up is to take place in Laid on 29th September, it will begin at 10am at Port na Con, with lunch at the Tea Room. All are welcome to attend.
- Complaints have been received regarding cows leaving a mess on the beach. It was felt that this was outside the remit of the C.C.
- £4,100 have been promised from the H.C. for further improvements to the Core Path network.

10. Date of next meeting. Monday 7th October at 7.30pm, Durness Village Hall.