**Minutes of the Durness Community Council - DRAFT**

Durness Village Hall, Durness, Sutherland, IV27 4QA

**Monday 13th July 2020 7pm Smoo Cave Hotel**

**The meeting was held in the hotel restaurant and all complied with social distancing**

1. **Present**: Don Campbell (DC) - Chair

Scott Macpherson (SM) – Vice Chair

Sarah Fuller (SF) - Treasurer

Ron Tucker (RT) - Secretary

Barbara Sutherland (BS)

Anita Wilson (AW)

Ewen MacRae (EM)

Janet Hollands (JH)

Cllr Hugh Morrison (HM)

Also present: Liz Elliot and Fraser Eadie

1. **Minutes of the last meeting**

Proposed by SF and DC. Agreed and passed.

1. **The Impact of Tourism on the community following the relaxing of Covid19 restrictions.**

Large commercial litter bins: The anticipated increased usage and requirement for additional bins was discussed at length. HM stated the Highland Council might be moving to a fortnightly collection rota on the current bins. This was deemed to be totally inadequate, especially as we are still awaiting confirmation of the date when the Recycling Centre skips will be available. It was felt that a weekly rubbish collection was warranted, possibly even twice weekly. However, if the fortnightly collection is implemented, it was agreed that the number of bins at each location should be doubled, the critical locations being at Smoo Cave, Balnakeil and Ceannabeinne. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Area Manager, Andy Shaw at Sutherland Waste, and copied to the head of the Highland Council, to outline the problems that are occurring in this area, illustrating the issues by providing photographs taken locally. In summary, we need 12 extra bins.

**Action: RT & All members to send pictures to RT**

Policing: PC Mitchell is still shielding and is not likely to be available in the near future. HM stated that he has been in touch with the Inspector covering the Durness area and been informed that they will patrol as much as they can.

**Action: HM**

Toilet Facilities: RT reported that he had been in contact with Honeywagon who would be happy to supply Portaloos to Durness but were restricted at present. Their charge would be £35 per unit per week with an extra £20 per unit for more than one ‘empty’ per week. The meeting decided that there is a need for some sort of facility. It was agreed that RT should ask for four Portaloos to be supplied as soon as they become available; a trial period of a month was agreed. The cost to be recovered from the Highland Council.

**Action: RT**

Which businesses will open on 15th July: No further information was forthcoming, although the feeling was that most businesses will open, albeit within the operating restrictions of the current guidelines.

Hand sanitisers:

Six hand sanitisers have been purchased and will be installed around the village as follows: two at the Spar toilets, two at Smoo Cave, one at Village Hall and one at the fuel pumps.

**Action**: SM

Signage: SM is still waiting for the road signs design to come back.

It was agreed that an A4 notice will be laminated and posted around the village as a reminder to tourists to be considerate and comply with restrictions.

**Action: RT and SM**

1. **Any Other Business**

Sallachy Wind Farm: The date of the next telephone conference is 20th July 2020, at 6pm-7pm. Dial in details are 0333 043 4351 with PIN 7745980#

The Web Seminar for residents living with the Durness proximity is on 22nd July, 4pm-7pm.

Cemetery Extension: BS raised this issue as there is a need to decide on where the cemetery is to be extended as time and space are running out.

1. **Date of next meeting**:

Monday 10th August 2020 at 7pm in the Village Hall (to be confirmed).

These Minutes were agreed at the meeting on…………………………………………..