

Durness Community Council

Durness Village Hall, Durness, Sutherland, IV27 4QA

Monday 11th April 2022 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Minutes – Draft

- 1. Present**
 - Don Campbell (DC) - Chair
 - Scott Macpherson (SM) – Vice Chair
 - Ron Tucker (RT) - Secretary
 - Sarah Fuller (SF) – Treasurer
 - Anita Wilson (AW)
 - Barbara Sutherland (BS)
 - Janet Hollands (JH)
 - Ewen MacRae (EM)

Non-Council Members

 - Paul Sinnott (PS) Laid Common Grazing & Community Committee
- 2. Apologies**
 - Steve Woodruff (SW), Dr Laura Hamlet (LH), Cllr Hugh Morrison (HM), PC Mitchell, Maj. Philip Curtis
- 3. Minutes of the last meeting (10th January 2022)**

Proposed by BS; seconded by JH. Agreed and passed.
- 4. Matters Arising**
 - 1. Sallachy Wind Farm**

DC stated planning will now definitely be this month.
 - 2. Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund**

No change but David Boyd the Estate manager has been in touch with DC and DC is hopeful the Estate may contribute to a project soon.
A car park is in progress on the land to the West of ‘Tommie’s’ old house. This is to be completed by the Council.
 - 3. Beach fencing and notice boards**

RT stated that Matt Dent, the Council’s Access Officer, is to visit Durness on 19th April in the morning; time to be arranged.
 - 4. NC500/Tourism**

No update.
 - 5. Website**

No change but businesses can pay SF by BACs if they wish.
 - 6. Road by hostel/Speed limits in Durness and Laid**

Still awaits the Council to assess the road. SM will send a letter to the Council requesting a speed limit of 30mph.
DC will write letter regarding the need of signs at the top of the Ca.
Action: DC and SM
- 5. Cattle Grid at Sangobeg**

RT stated the residents of Sangobeg would like the grid removed due to the excessive noise of the grid - it can be heard as far away as Druim Bhlar. DC and SM both said this cannot be removed as the area would be inundated with sheep.

6. Wildland Report

RT stated the Tim Kirkwood would like to hear some feedback to his report 'Engaging with the Communities – Wildland Limited Engagement Plan'.

RT asked for feedback by email, and he will respond to Tim.

Action: RT

7. MOD

No update.

8. NHS

AW had a meeting with the 'Near Me' team. This is a project to enable people in remote areas to consult specialists regarding their problems via the internet.

Patients can attend the local surgery who will provide a room and equipment in order to do this.

RT will post the notice and ask SW to put it on the Website.

Action: RT and SW

9. Police

No update. RT was asked to get in touch with the local Inspector for an update.

It is stressed that all non-active crime should be reported to the Police by calling 101.

Action: RT

10. Reports

1. Durness Community Group

RT reported that the lease has been granted for the whole field for a new playground.

2. Geopark

DC will forward their latest newsletter.

3. Treasurer

SF reported that the ACTUAL balance as of today is £3,922.55

4. Northwest2045

Nothing to report.

11. Highland Council

No update.

12. Planning

1. The planning application for Land At Cnoc Garbh 71 Lerin Durness Lairg IV27 4QB was discussed with EM present. RT disputed the letter that DC had written to the Council before the meeting. DC stated he had carried out a vote by email. A new vote was taken with EM not voting. The vote was four to one in favour of the planning application.

2. Extra burger van at Caberfeidh: after discussion no objection was raised at this time.

3. Balnakeil Farm: no objection.

4. Hope Cottage: this is in the Tongue area. RT to raise the issue with the Ward manager.

Action: RT

13. Any other business

1. Landlord signs: DC is liaising with David Boyd the Estate Factor.

2. DC reported that there is a collaboration of Scourie, KLB and Durness to obtain better representation. This group is chaired by Phil Tomalin the Ward Manager. Durness will be represented by DC and Neil Fuller, Chair of the Durness Community Group.

3. Another grouping is by six Community Councils across the Highland.

4. The Windfarm at Altnaharra is expected to produce income in the near future. There will be a common fund and an individual £5,000 to each Community Council.
5. Signage is needed at the top and bottom of the Ca as inappropriate vehicles are using this poorly maintained road.

14. Date of next meeting

7pm Monday 16th May 2022 in the Village Hall.

AGM Monday 6th June 2022 in the Village Hall, followed by a normal meeting.

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

DRAFT