

Durness Community Council

Durness Village Hall, Durness, Sutherland, IV27 4QA

Monday 16th May 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)
 - Ewen MacRae (EM)
 - Cllr Marianne Hutchison (MH) - Ex-Officio
 - Cllr Hugh Morrison (HM) - Ex-Officio
 - Steve Woodruff (SW) - Associate

Non-Council Members

 - Paul Sinnott (PS) Laid Common Grazing & Community Committee
 - Hollands (JH)
- 2. Apologies** Janet Hollands (JH), Dr Laura Hamlet (LH), Cllr Michael Baird, PC Mitchell, Maj. Philip Curtis
- 3. Minutes of the last meeting (11th April 2022)**

Proposed by BS; seconded by SF. Agreed and passed.

DC formerly congratulated the new Councillors.

4. Matters Arising

1. Sallachy Wind Farm

DC stated that this planning application has been passed by the Council and the Scottish Government will not oppose.
There is a possible lead time of three years.
2. Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund

No change.
RT reported that work on the car park at 'Tommie's' would not start until next year. This came from his meeting with Matt Dent.
3. Beach fencing and notice boards

RT stated that he and EM met Matt Dent at Sango beach. He agreed the Council would look at putting in new steps to the beach, but they will not maintain them. He also said he would look at the Clearance Village walkways and Ceannabeinne beach.
4. NC500/Tourism

We are still awaiting confirmation that a new ranger has been appointed. RT agreed to contact the Ward Manager for further information.

DC suggested that the new ranger should be invited to these meeting. This was agreed.

The Highland Council will empty bins as they did last year.

Action: RT

5. Website

SW reported that the viewing figures for the website are poor. Businesses are not advertising as they are already inundated with enquiries for bookings.

6. Road by hostel/Speed limits in Durness and Laid

We are still waiting for the road engineer to visit. MH stated she would chase this up in conjunction with HM.

Action: DC and SM

5. **MOD**

No update.

6. **NHS**

AW stated that there is a mobile unit carrying out Covid injection for over 75s and under 12s. Dates need to be confirmed by the surgery.

AW is working on the 'Near Me' teams date for webinars.

Action: AW

7. **Police**

DC reported that PC Fraser is still with us until the end of the month. We will then be getting a PC on transfer from Alness.

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

8. **Reports**

1. Durness Community Group

DC pointed out that with the Altnaharra windfarm coming online we will be able to tap into the fund for local projects.

£231,00 per year will be available to the five Community Councils in the area.

Each Community Council will receive £5,000 per year; applications can be made for a share of the remaining balance for major projects.

It was also pointed out that the Altnaharra Estate and the Duke of Westminster are potential sources for funds.

2. Geopark

DC circulated copies of the biweekly update from Geopark and will send by email their main information document.

They are carrying out joint school lectures.

3. Treasurer

SF reported that the balance as of today is £2,722.55

4. Northwest2045

Nothing to report.

HM joined the meeting at this stage.

9. **Highland Council**

No update.

10. **Planning**

None.

11. **Any other business**

1. DC reported that he has signed the forms for this CC to join the NW Sutherland Trust.
2. There will be another group formed from local CCs for the Sallachy Wind Farm.
3. RT received an email from James Mather requesting that the road on the Cape to the lighthouse be repaired as a matter of urgency as the current state is affecting three local businesses.

12. Date of next meeting

AGM Monday 6.30pm on 6th June 2022 in the Village Hall, followed by a normal meeting.

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

DRAFT