

Durness Community Council

Durness Village Hall, Durness, Sutherland, IV27 4QA

Monday 1st November 2021 at 7pm On Zoom

Minutes - Draft

- 1. Present**

Don Campbell (DC) - Chair
Ron Tucker (RT) – Secretary
Sarah Fuller (SF) - Treasurer
Anita Wilson (AW)
Barbara Sutherland (BS)
Ewen MacRae (EM)
Janet Hollands (JH)

Non-Council Member
Paul Sinnott (PS) – Laid Common Grazing & Community Committee
- 2. Apologies**

Scott Macpherson (SM), Cllr Hugh Morrison (HM), Steve Woodruff (SW), PC Mitchell, Maj. Philip Curtis
- 3. Minutes of the last meeting (3rd May 2021)**

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

No change.
 - 2. Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund**

Ongoing; awaits a project.
 - 3. Beach fencing and notice boards**

The Rangers were held up by the need for the landlord's permission to upgrade fences, footpaths and notices.
It was agreed that the landlord, Durness Estate, be contacted to obtain the necessary permissions. SF suggested that the Council representative for the upkeep of paths etc also be involved. RT and DC to write to the Durness Estate requesting the permissions.
RT is still waiting for the lock for the Sango noticeboard. (Now obtained)
DC reported that the Crofters only need enough room at the Clearance Village to gain access on an ATV.
Action: RT, DC
 - 4. Community Composter**

DC reported that the frame is in position and ready for next year's grass. There are three bays and use of these should be from left to right. Pallets were supplied by K. MacRae & Sons.
 - 5. NC500/Tourism**

DC reported that the Keodale Sheep Stock Company (KSSC) and the Highlands and Islands Enterprise(HIE) have been in discussion regarding the planned new campsite at Balnakeil. JH asked for the exact location of the site. DC informed the meeting that it will be next to the golf course. JH then asked how traffic will access the site and DC stated it will be via the existing road that runs past the cemetery. JH and RT both raised the issue of the state of

that road not being suitable for the extra load that will be inevitable. DC stated that it was the same as any other single-track road in the Highlands and that it is a road maintained by the Council.

DC also reported that the Geopark Rangers are now finished but the Highland Council have extended their Ranger contract till next March.

We are still waiting for the Highland Council to report on the state of the road between the Smoo Cave and Druim Bhlar.

6. Website

RT reported that the DCG had asked SW to contact all businesses in Durness to see if they wished to advertise on the durness.scot website.

Action: **SW**

7. Local Government Boundary Commission

The number of Councillors has been retained.

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

See item 4.5 above.

There was a discussion regarding the speed limits. Paul Sinnott informed the meeting that HM is still making enquiries with the Highland Council.

9. Remembrance Day

11th November 2021. A normal service will take place. This is an outdoor event. There will be no schoolchildren. The schoolchildren will lay crosses on the next day.

5. **MOD**

RT read an email from Phillip Curtis.

Exercise JOINT WARRIOR21/2 /DYNAMIC MARINER was a success in that it met its objectives, although the activity at Cape Wrath was very limited but I am grateful for the community's perseverance in relation to the relatively short notice date change.

There will be no Ex JOINT WARRIOR 22/1 and JW 22/2 will take place over the period 1-13 Oct 2022. A Live firing exercise will be taking place on the Cape week commencing 1 Nov, consisting of mortar live firing 4-6 Nov (weather permitting) followed by 3-4 days of dry training. The live fire will be mortars firing from the area of Kervaig bothy, so I would not expect there to be any noise disruption in the village.

There is still a hope to run an exercise on the Cape in spring '22 which will be a ground exercise only. This is an exercise that was first planned for spring '19, and then autumn '21 but COVID has kept it from happening. It is again in very early planning stages but as more details emerge, I will pass them on.

Finally, I will take this opportunity to wish the Durness Community all the very best wishes for the festive season and thank you again for your continued support to our activities.

6. **NHS**

DC reported that we are still waiting on a G+P and is going to ask the NHS representative to join the meeting to explain the GP situation. SF said she has a possible contact.

RT raised the issue of not yet having formally registered the new situation of having only one defibrillator. Paul Sinnott was asked if Laid had a defibrillator. He said they do but he was not sure whether it is registered with the Ambulance Service. DC said that HM has a contact for the Ambulance Service and will forward it.

DC said that the Highland Council has money available for defibrillators and first aid training can be obtain through the St John Ambulance Service which covers

defibrillators. The meeting agreed that we should replace the defibrillator at the Spar and that we need at least three in the village.

7. Police

RT reported that PC Mitchell had emailed the following information in two emails:

20.10.2021

Only crime of note was the stolen vehicle on 18/10/2021 from Durness. Local residents are asked to lock and secure vehicles when left unattended and to report any suspicious behaviour to the Police. I don't think there is anything else to pass on at this time.

1.11.2021

The only incident of note that I am aware of at this time was a male arrested and reported for matters involving disorder and drink driving in the Durness area since the last meeting.

I am hopefully back on patrol from today so hope to see yourself and the rest of Durness soon.

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

8. Reports

1. Durness Community Group

RT said that the DCG were planning to go ahead with the Senior Citizens' meal on the same basis as last year. DC and SF stated that the DCC can pay for this with a discretionary grant from the Council.

RT stated that the DCG were pressing ahead trying to raise money for the new playpark.

2. Geopark

DC reported that the Geopark had recently held their AGM and he has circulated a copy of their report.

They are still working hard to improve the parking within the village and are looking at the area adjacent to "Tommy's" as a parking area in conjunction with the Highland Council.

3. Treasurer

SF stated the balance as of today is £3,183.55.

4. Northwest2045

DC said they are still looking at attracting people to the area and hope the Space Port will help.

9. Highland Council

HM asked DC to ensure that we ask for the monies due to the DCC.

10. Planning

None.

11. Any other business

None.

12. Date of next meeting

7pm Monday 10th January 2022 in the Village Hall.

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