

Durness Community Group

Charity registration number: SC032179

Durness Village Hall, Smoo, Durness, Sutherland, IV27 4QA

Minutes of the Meeting (Draft)

Meeting at the Village Hall 7pm 26th January 2022

1. **Present** Neil Fuller (NF)
Yvonne MacRae Vice Chair (YM)
Ron Tucker - Secretary (RT)
Sheila Frazer - Treasurer (SF)
Jo Tucker (JT)
Alistair Morrison (AM)
Martina Macleod (MM)
Steve Woodruff (SW)
Don Campbell (DC)
2. **Apologies** Dawn McKenzie (DM), Kathy Parker (KP)
3. **Minutes of the last meeting** 28th October 2021
Agreed apart from: 4.2 Ronnie Lansley has not made the photo archive available.
Proposed by MM seconded by SF.
4. **Matters arising**
 1. Toilets on the Cape
Air Tanks from the old foghorn are to be repurposed by John Ure; however, there is no work at present due to the weather.
 2. Website
SW reports nothing has been received from Ronnie Lansley.
Anne Mackenzie is trying to put together a list of businesses in Durness.
Lucy Mackay is going to think about linking the Hall and Golf Club sites to the Durness site.
Action: SW, JT
 3. Sallachy Wind Farm
This is still in planning. The Wildland Act is currently going through Parliament; DC said that they are trying to discuss this with the MSP.
 4. Youth Work
None.
 5. 1 Bard Terrace
Details withheld.
Action: NF
 6. Access to the Ceannabeinne Clearance Village
The Ranger and the Crofters are sorting the access; the entrance has been reduced to the width of a quadbike and a gate is to be added. DC suggested that the parking area and walkways, steps and bridges could all do with improvement. NF will ask Geopark if they can help.
Action: NF
 7. Children's Play Park
Awaiting estimates for the build.
No VAT exemption is available.

We are still awaiting a lease decision from the Highland Council; if granted, they would maintain the grounds and equipment and pay the insurance.

Action: RT, AM, YM, SW

8. Community Housing

NF emailed the Community Housing Trust; they have suggested a meeting in March.

NF, AM and DC will take a stock check of housing around Durness.

Action: NF, AM, DC

9. Defibrillators

The Highland Council have money available for more defibrillators.

YM reported that Defib awareness classes have been run by a paramedic in Kinlochbervie. It was agreed that we should investigate providing something similar in Durness.

RW said that the Defib at the Village Hall is not on the map app used by the emergency services.

Action: DC, YM

10. Press Release

No change.

11. Facebook

There is still an old DDG Facebook page in existence. SW will contact Facebook with a view to it being taken down.

ACTION: SW

5. Reports

1. Financial

There is £52,225 in the account.

SF reported that the accountant we use has now retired; however, she explained that, following the change to a SCIO, we no longer need to submit Accounts.

2. Durness Community Council

The DCC is looking at expanding the number of defibrillators.

Working with Geopark is going well.

DC recommended the report by the Ranger, Jonny Charlton (JC). Hugh Morrison and DC were due to meet him the following day. DC suggested inviting JC to the next DCC and DCG meetings to explain what he is working on and the scope of his remit.

ACTION: DC

6. A.O.B.

1. NF said he would circulate two emails which he had recently received re a) Wine & Whisky Tasting in Scourie and b) Helen Houston seeking backing for funding a Podiatrist who would visit villagers in their own homes.
2. NF stated that he will attend a Zoom meeting of the Transport sub-Group of the Sutherland Community Trust.
3. SW advised that the durness.scot website can provide individual email addresses for those who want a separate email for specific projects, e.g. playpark@durness.scot.
4. SW then asked, "How do we want to see Durness?" Are we working to present Durness as an NC500 stopover or as a place to visit and stay for a period of time? Upmarket or cheap and cheerful?
A long discussion took place.

5. SW: There is Scottish funding for buying land from absent landlords.
6. JT thanked for the Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner which was funded by Highland Council, DCC and DCG.
7. SF asked whether overnight parking is to be allowed in the car park by the former Visitor Information Centre.
8. NF stated that the steps at Sango need urgent repairs. Matt Dent at the Council should be contacted.

ACTION: RT

7. **Date of next meeting:**
Wednesday 9th March 2022 7pm at the Village Hall

These Minutes approved at the Meeting

DRAFT