

Durness Community Group

Charity registration number: SC032179

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

Minutes of the Meeting

Meeting at the Village Hall 7pm 7th October 2021

1. **Present**
Neil Fuller – Convenor/Chair (NF)
Ron Tucker - Secretary (RT)
Sheila Frazer - Treasurer (SF)
Kathy Parker (KP)
Joanna Tucker (JT)
Alistair Morrison (AM)
Martina Macleod (MM)
Yvonne MacRae (YM)
2. **Apologies**
Don Campbell (DC), Steve Woodruff (SW), Dawn McKenzie (DM)
3. **Minutes of the last meeting** 11th May 2021
Agreed. Proposed by NF seconded by KP.
4. **Matters arising**
 1. Toilets on the Cape
No update at the meeting. NF followed up the next day:
Just been talking to John Ure.
Good news is that he's progressed the purchase of the small buildings behind the power house and also the giant air tanks that used to feed the fog horns. His intention is to now use the steel tanks as the toilets, they will be put into a vertical position, and one will be tiled inside and the other one will be teak lined. I think this is a great idea. Part of the old lighthouse infrastructure being repurposed will be an ideal solution.
 2. Website
RT reported that the DCC had discussed the matter of charging for advertising; the following is from DCC minutes:
It was decided to charge current advertisers £50 per year and new advertisers half that fee as an incentive.
Action: None
 3. Sallachy Wind Farm
This is still in planning.
 4. Youth Work
SF reported that we will receive a refund from the Bank of Scotland re the Youth fund. The amount is not known.
 5. 1 Bard Terrace
NF is still considering a solution for the heating problem.
Action: NF
 6. Access to the Ceannabeinne Clearance Village
RT suggested that contact be made with Geopark asking if they will contribute to the required repairs.

Action: NF

7. BIDs

This matter is closed although RT still has some sanitiser supplies.

8. Children's Play Park

Three quotes were received from Valerie Houston of the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust.

These were as follows:

1. Jupiter Play and Leisure
2. Russell Play
3. Kompan

All quotes came to more than £170,000 and covered all aspects of our eventual aims, i.e. Toddler area, Junior area, Fitness area and ball game area.

These estimates were discussed at length and the group decided that at present we would concentrate on the toddler's area. There are 10 Durness children currently at pre-nursery age.

The ground is owned by the council. The possibility of a land buyout was discussed as well as a leasing option; also, the implications of insurance cover if the buyout is proceeded with.

If a buyout is considered there would need to be a caveat that the Primary School should always have access to their garden.

At present the Group can raise funds of up to £30,000.

NF suggested a funding application to Scottish Sea Farms be made via Richard Darbyshire.

We should also consider raising funds locally.

Action: All

Post meeting, YM emailed the Committee:

I think we all agreed at the meeting that the quotes were all great but a bit higher than we had first envisioned. I've gone through the different Playpark quotes and I would be keen to ask for a 2nd quote from Russell Play with the following money saving changes... (refer to email of 10 October for detailed list of suggested changes and queries).

YM also emailed this information:

KLB have a committee which owns the land the Playpark is on - it was gifted by Kinlochbervie Estate. They have insurance through Zurich about £178 a year. The Highland Council does the inspections.

9. Community Housing

There is still a desperate need for more housing for residents. NF said he would ask Ronnie MacRae at the Communities Housing Trust for help.

Action: NF

10. HIE funding for development post

This item is closed as no direct funding is available.

11. Cape Wrath Ultra

This went ahead as scheduled.

12. Defibrillators

RT stated he had now taken over responsibility to check and maintain these on behalf of the Group. However, at the handover, it was discovered that the Defibrillator opposite the Spar was completely waterlogged and beyond repair so we now have only one available to the public.

There is one located in the Durness Health Centre (available only during opening hours) and the out of hours GP carries one.

RT had contacted the surgery to ask if they had any information on Defibrillator training for the community. They had directed him to www.resus.org.uk/public-resource where there is advice and guidance on CPR and using a Defibrillator.

They also advised that the Ambulance Service should be notified of the removal of the faulty unit.

Action: RT

13. Press Release

JT is still waiting for the Group to decide which project to report as an introduction to the Group.

14. Facebook

There is still an old Facebook account for the Group which NF will remove.

Action: NF

5. Financial Report

SF reported that all is now well with the Bank of Scotland. There is £51,496 in the account of which £6,000 (**Amended to £8000 at the next meeting**) is to be held in reserve for commitments.

6. A.O.B.

Senior Citizens' Christmas Event

RT raised this subject as to what type of event this should be this year. It was decided that we would stick to last year's format if the Smoo Cave Hotel agree. NF to ask Hugh/Frances.

Action: NF

Vice Chair

RT also raised the issue of a requirement for a Vice Chair. It was agreed that one is required. NF nominated YM and was seconded by JT. The motion was passed by all.

7. Date of next meeting: Thursday 28th October 2021 7pm at the Village Hall

These minutes approved at the meeting28th October 2021