

Minutes of the Durness Community Council - DRAFT

Durness Village Hall, Durness, Sutherland, IV27 4QA

Monday 11th January 2021 7pm On Zoom

- 1. Present:**
 - Don Campbell (DC) - Chair
 - Scott Macpherson (SM) – Vice Chair
 - Ron Tucker (RT) - Secretary
 - Sarah Fuller (SF) – Treasurer
 - Anita Wilson (AW)
 - Ewen MacRae (EM)
 - Steve Woodruff (SW) – Associate

Apologies:

Barbara Sutherland (BS), Cllr Hugh Morrison (HM), Janet Hollands (JH), PC Mitchell, Maj. Philip Curtis

- 2. Minutes of the last meeting**

Proposed by AW and DC. Agreed and passed.

- 3. Matters Arising**

BIDs

£500 is still available for use by the community.

Sallachy Wind Farm

Their next meeting is 20th January 2021.

Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund

The Geopark has put in a bid for money re parking in Smoo Cave car park and barriers.

The area of land adjacent to the Village Hall and opposite Smoo Lodge is the area which we should be looking at for additional car parking. EM has spoken to the Grazing Committee and they have no problem with this concept. EM to contact Ian Wilson.

We should try to obtain planning permission for a footpath from the Village Hall, behind Smoo Lodge and on to Smoo Cave.

Action: EM

Children's Play Area

No updates. Close.

Beach fencing and notice boards

Railings for Sango and the Caa to keep visitors off the machair: an estimate has been received from KMS; an application should be made for a Ward discretionary fund to pay for this, and for information notices for this area which should be seasonal. It was unanimously agreed to proceed with this work and to apply for the funding retrospectively. Post-meeting note: BS queried whether we should have more than one quote for this work.

Action: EM

Road by the Hostel

Ongoing.

New Noticeboards

Still ongoing.

Action: HM

Community Composter

DC and Martin Mackay (Chair, Grazing Committee) hope to progress this matter this winter.

Action: DC

NC500/Tourism

We expect similar problems to those experienced in 2020. SW suggested sending leaflets to motorhome hire companies, for distribution to their customers, giving information and guidance on the countryside codes. SW volunteered to contact NC500, SNH and various hire companies to ascertain what is currently disseminated.

Action: SW

Website

SW stated that the website is very static at the moment: it needs contributions.

SW to post a thank you on Facebook to all those who were involved with the Senior Citizens' Christmas Meal and to thank Michelle for driving to Lairg to collect our mail when the Durness Spar/Post Office was shut on 11 January.

RT to write letter of thanks to Smoo Cave Hotel.

Action: SW & RT

The Highland Hospice

The Highland Hospice carol event went ahead as planned; the £30 hire bill will be paid by the Community Council.

Local Government Boundary Commission

A letter, similar to that sent by Scourie Community Council and stating that representation should not be reduced, will be sent by DC.

Action: DC

Draft Sutherland Tourism Infrastructure Plan

No further updates.

Highland Coastal Community Fund

Application is being made by the Geopark for the Smoo Cave location.

4. M.O.D.

No update.

5. N.H.S.

No update.

6. Police Matters

A dog owner has been charged with worrying sheep.

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

7. Reports

Durness Community Group

RT reported that the Durness Development Group no longer exists; the new entity is the Durness Community Group which is a Scottish charity (SCIO).

Geopark

Geopark intend to recruit a fundraiser.

Treasurer

The balance as at 11th January 2021 is £4,572.97.

8. Planning

The development of the steading at Keoldale is going through.

9. Highland Council

No update.

10. Speed Limits

RT stated he has been approached by numerous residents who have concerns about the speed limits within Durness. It has been suggested that a 30mph speed limit should be introduced between the cattle grids. This was discussed at length. Apparently, it is very difficult to alter speed limits; SM suggested asking the Highland Council to paint SLOW markings on the road. It was agreed that this matter should be included along with the road width problems in the Youth Hostel area for consideration by a council Road Engineer.

11. Any Other Business

It was suggested that the Community Council should invest in the Highland Community Energy Society. After discussion, it was agreed that the Community Council would not do this, but that SW should post the information on the Facebook page.

Action: SW

12. Date of next meeting

7pm Monday 8th March 2021 on Zoom.

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

DRAFT