

# Durness Community Council

Durness Village Hall, Durness, Sutherland, IV27 4QA

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7pm On Zoom**

## **Minutes**

- 1. Present**

Don Campbell (DC) - Chair  
Scott Macpherson (SM) – Vice Chair  
Ron Tucker (RT) – Secretary  
Anita Wilson (AW)  
Barbara Sutherland (BS)  
Ewen MacRae (EM)

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

Sarah Fuller (SF), Janet Hollands (JH), Cllr Hugh Morrison (HM),  
PC Mitchell, Maj. Philip Curtis, Steve Woodruff (SW).
- 3. Minutes of the last meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021)**

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

This is progressing and a decision will be made at the Highland Council meeting in December.
  2. Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund

Ongoing.
  3. Beach fencing and notice boards

DC reported that some of the Council met with the Ranger to inspect the problems especially around Ceannabeinne beach area. Geopark are going to erect fencing around certain areas to try to protect more of the flora and fauna from rubbish and human waste.

It has been agreed that a new noticeboard can be erected at the Spar.  
DC is to provide RT with a new lock for the noticeboard at Sango beach.

**Action: RT, HM, DC, Geopark**
  4. Community Composter

Don reported that this will be in place by the end of November.

**Action: DC**
  5. NC500/Tourism

DC reported that the new campsite at Balnakeil may help to relieve some of the pressure on the rest of the village. This campsite is being constructed by the Keodale Sheep Stock Company (KSSC).

RT drew the attention of the meeting to SW's email reporting all the work being carried out by the RSPB Abernathy Estate concerning portable BBQ, fires and camper vans.

With reference to speed limits DC said that an engineer is going to attend Durness to look at the problem at the hostel area; date to be arranged.

SM said that the passing spaces should be lengthened to cope with the current type of vehicles using the roads. Especially at 'Big Bridge' and Eriboll church.

The matter of the cattle grid at Sangobeg was raised. The noise created by vehicles crossing is great and can be heard for a full mile in all directions. The residents living close to it are suffering. It was agreed that SM and HM would raise the issue with the council to have rubber dampeners bolted in under the grid.

DC reported that he had met with six other Community Councils to discuss these matters of NC500 and tourism.

**Action: DC, SM and HM**

6. Website

SW by email asked if we should charge for advertising on the site. A discussion took place and in the end it was decided to charge current advertisers £50 per year and new advertisers half that fee as an incentive.

Action: **SW**

7. Local Government Boundary Commission

DC informed the meeting that he had completed the survey asking for comment on the proposal to reduce representation. It was noted that the survey was asking the same question in various different ways.

8. Draft Sutherland Tourism Infrastructure Plan

DC said this item can be dropped from the agenda as it is ongoing long term.

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

See item 4.5 above where these issues have already been noted.

Action: **None**

**5. Unsociable behaviour by locals**

SF reported by email that this matter seems to have been a one off.

DC stated all such matters should be reported to the police.

**6. MOD**

DC reported that 'Joint Warrior' will be 23 to 30 September, the last two weeks in October and 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> November.

**7. NHS**

DC stated that a GP had shown some interest but there was a problem supplying them with information.

AW enquired re the liaison meeting with the NHS.

**8. Police**

RT reported that PC Mitchell had emailed the following information:

*As for police business - We have had a hit and run RTC reported to us in the area recently. We have also had reports of anti-social driving and the Police will continue to address this with extra patrol where possible. We are aware of at least one more semi-organised car rally that intends to pass through the area later in the month and I have requested the assistance of the Roads Policing (traffic) department to assist us in policing this matter.*

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

## **9. Reports**

### 1.Durness Community Group

Nothing to add.

### 2.Geopark

DC referred the meeting to the Geopark update sheet sent out by Dr. Laura Hamlet.

### 3.Treasurer

Email from SF stating the balance as of today is £3360.95.

### 4.Northwest2045

DC reported they have finished interviewing various people in the community with a cross section of ages; they are now running online workshops to take forward the vision for 2045. Keep an eye out for details online.

## **10. Highland Council**

DC said he will pass on all points raised to HM.

SM suggested that any footway proposal should link the Smoo to the new car park and then to the village hall.

DC reported there had been two accidents in the Ca to pedestrians, being hit by flying stones. DC asked that the rangers look into this.

## **11. Planning**

SM said there is only one that concerned us and that is the application to formalise the existing structures at the fish farm landing site in Laid. Paul Sinnott asked that this be declined due to the disruption and increase in traffic.

A discussion took place and eventually it was decided to vote on the matter. The Council voted in favour of the application by four votes to nil with two abstentions.

## **12. Any other business**

### Remembrance Day

DC said this would go ahead with as many attending as possible. SM stated he would not be able to attend; DC said he would obtain the service of some personnel working on the Cape.

## **13. Date of next meeting**

7pm Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 It is hoped that this will be a live meeting in the Village Hall.

These Minutes were agreed at the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021