

Durness Community Council

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

Monday 2nd September 2024

in the Village Hall

Minutes

- 1. Present**
 - Don Campbell (DC) - Chair
 - Ron Tucker (RT) – Secretary
 - Anita Wilson (AW)
 - Barbara Sutherland (BS)
 - Ewen MacRae (EM)
 - Cllr Hugh Morrison (HM) - Ex-officio

Non-Council Members

 - Jim Bunting (for Fiona Saywell)
- 2. Apologies** Maj. Philip Curtis, Kristina Coulton, Scott Macpherson, Fiona Saywell and Steve Woodruff
- 3. Minutes of the last meeting 2nd July 2024**

Proposed by AW; seconded by BS. Agreed with the amendment in 11 NHS.
- 4. Matters Arising**
 - 1. Smoo Cave and Road**

Still awaits action by the Highland Council.
 - 2. Fire Hydrants**

Still waiting Fire Department.
 - 3. Noticeboard**

The new noticeboard is fitted but it is difficult to hold open due to the weight. RT also found it unlocked once. RT volunteered to be the keyholder and to post any notices as required.
 - 4. Local Place Plan**

No update.
- 5. Bridge over burn at Clearance Village**

This is being delivered to EM who will arrange fitting.
- 6. Road on the Capeside**

80 tons of clipping and scalping will be flown to the Cape as part of a military exercise. This is due to happen on 19th September, weather permitting.

Action: Military
- 7. Ground Maintenance at the Cemetery**

RT read the reply to his letter regarding the cemetery conditions and the situation has improved. A copy of the reply is attached.
- 8. Defibrillators (Laid)**

It is believed there is one in Laid; DC will contact Katie Kay to resolve the matter. HM will investigate to see if the speed limit in Laid can be reduced.

Action: HM

9. Balnakeil farm dangers

RT read out the letter sent to Mr. Elliot to which, so far, there has been no reply. RT now has his email and will resend the letter that way.

Action: RT

10. Smoo Cave Disabled toilet key

It is the official policy of the Highland Council that all disabled persons, foreign or not, should have their own 'Radar' key.

11. This item was deleted.

12. This was a duplicate item.

13. MOD

Military programme for 2024 (amended)

10-12 th Sept	Typhoons
12 th Sept	Apaches
26 – 27 th Sept	Helo lift Lerinbeg to Kervaig
27 th – 30 th Sept	Deer management
30 th Sept – 4 th Oct	Merlins
7 th Oct	Typhoons]
14 – 25 th Oct	Joint Warrior
4 th – 5 th Nov	USS Burkley
18 – 22 nd Nov	Typhoons

14. N.H.S.

Patient transport number is 0300 123 1236

- The quantity of information and notices in the surgery has not improved.
- There is some confusion as to where the RSV vaccination is available. People have been going to Kinlochbervie despite the NHS map stating that Durness Village Hall is the venue.
- The shingles vaccination will be available to certain age-groups and invitations will be sent out in January 2025
- There is a survey available until 16th September which invites people to give their views and experiences on the vaccination program - website is <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/NHSHighland>

15. Police Matters (Police Constable Allan Cameron N0784)

No update.

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

16. Reports

1. Durness Community Group

Work on the new playground has started.

2. Geopark

Jim Bunting gave a full report on the work relating to Durness, including:
Gaelic Pilgrim's Trail podcasts

Junior Ranger programmes in KLB High School
Guided walk up Ben Stack
My Geopark story writing competition
Fantasy map

The NW Highlands Geopark was officially granted Geopark status on 29th October 2004. Celebrations of the anniversary are planned.
Geikie Centennial celebration events programme planned with Haslemere Museum and Ullapool Museum.
The full newsletter is attached to these minutes.

3. Treasurer

No update.

4. Northwest2045

Jim Bunting reported that this group has employed Joe Peach to sort projects.

5. N & W Sutherland Trust

School leavers funding for students.

AGM set for 7th September.

It is estimated that we need £6,000 for path repairs in Durness area.

6. Windfarms

Sallachy wind farm is having problems with access to the site.

Bettyhill are reviewing the connection.

7. Christmas lights

HM reported we have orders for 10 lights with 12 names contributing. It is hoped to obtain windfarm money, £6,000, to pay for fitting the lights. It was suggested that the Community Group should make this application.

8. Hall

RT read a report from the Chair of the Hall Committee which was a summary of their activities since December 2023. Copy attached.

This item will be included in future meetings.

17. Highland Council

HM reported that:

- The vacant cemetery job has been advertised.
- Work has commenced in School Road to increase the parking space.
- Verge cutting is ongoing.
- Rubbish is being collected from the extra bins for tourism.

18. Planning

None.

19. Any other business

BS reported that there are two raised stones in the Druim Bhlar bell entrance which are sharp and potentially dangerous.

Action: Highways crew

RT raised a question on behalf of Jo Tucker regarding the funding for the library van. HM stated that the Highland Council looked at several options regarding the library but in the end stayed with the van and funding has now been agreed.

20. Date of next meeting

Monday 7th October 2024

These Minutes were agreed at the meeting on Monday 7th October 2024

DRAFT