

Minutes of the Durness Community Council - DRAFT

Durness Village Hall, Durness, Sutherland, IV27 4QA

Monday 22nd June 2020 5pm Smoo Cave Hotel

The meeting was held in the hotel restaurant and all complied with social distancing

- 1. Present:**
 - Don Campbell (DC) - Chair
 - Scott Macpherson (SM) – Vice Chair
 - Sarah Fuller (SF) - Treasurer
 - Ron Tucker (RT) - Secretary
 - Barbara Sutherland (BS)
 - Anita Wilson (AW)
 - CLr Hugh Morrison (HM)

Apologies: Ewen MacRae (EM)

- 2. Minutes of the last meeting**

Proposed by SM and BS. Agreed and passed.

- 3. The Impact of Tourism on the community following the relaxing of Covid19 restrictions.**

This meeting was arranged to discuss the impact of the anticipated relaxation of restrictions on movement around Scotland. It is feared that there will be an influx of tourists to Durness which will swamp the village.

Apparently there have already been tourists in the Spar and at parking areas, despite the latter being closed.

Policing: A discussion took place as to how the village could mitigate the impact of tourists.

It was agreed that HM would contact the Police Inspector at Alness, who is responsible for Durness, to ascertain whether PC Frazer is returning soon and, if not, what cover does he intend to provide for the village.

Action: HM

Toilet Facilities: It was acknowledged that we should work to alleviate the anticipated pressure on the toilet facilities in and around the village. An area of particular concern is the Ceannabeinne car park and beach where there is an ongoing problem with wild campers using the beach as a toilet.

It was agreed to investigate the possibility of providing 'Portaloos'.

Action: RT

Which businesses will open on 15th July?: It is understood that James Keith will open the camp site on 17th July to motor caravans with their own facilities onboard. He will not open the showers and washing facilities; however, he will allow all to use the chemical toilet disposal unit.

Smoo Cave hotel will open on 29th July but will be required to limit the number of rooms available to four and will have limited capacity in the restaurant and bar.

Following a discussion on the subject of bed and breakfast availability, it was apparent that the general availability of B & B in the village will be a third of the norm. RT will contact Steve Woodruff with a request to include advice to this effect on the Durness.scot website.

RT also agreed to contact NC500 to inform them of the situation for urgent dissemination to users of the NC500.

Action: RT

Signage: It was agreed that more signage is required so that toilet and waste areas are more easily found by visitors. SM agreed to source the appropriate signs.

Action: SM

4. Date of next meeting:

Monday 13th July 2020 at 7pm in the Smoo Cave Hotel.

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

DRAFT