

Durness Community Council

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

Monday 28th October 2024

in the Village Hall

Minutes

- 1. Present**
 - Don Campbell (DC) - Chair
 - Scott Macpherson – Dep. Chair
 - Ron Tucker (RT) – Secretary
 - Kristina Coulton (KC) – Treasurer
 - Anita Wilson (AW)
 - Barbara Sutherland (BS)
 - Non-Council Members**
 - Fiona Saywell (FS) - (Geopark)
 - Anne Sinnott (AS)
 - Paul Sinnott (PS)
- 2. Apologies** Ewen MacRae (EM), Cllr Hugh Morrison (HM) - Ex-officio, Maj. Philip Curtis (PC), and Steve Woodruff (SW)
- 3. Minutes of the last meeting 2nd September 2024**

Proposed by BS; seconded by AW. Agreed
- 4. Matters Arising**
 - 1. Smoo Cave and Road**

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

Still waiting Fire Department.
 - 3. Noticeboard**

Matter closed.
 - 4. Local Place Plan**

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

This bridge is too big for the proposed purpose. SM will consider alternatives.
Action: SM
- 6. Road on the Capeside**

The proposed action by the military had to be postponed until May 2025 due to their helicopters being grounded.
Action: Military
- 7. Ground Maintenance at the Cemetery**

A new member of staff has been employed and the situation has greatly improved.
This matter is now closed.

8. Defibrillators (Laid)

DC proposed that two more defibrillators be purchased. One will be located in the old phone box in Laid, the other will be installed at the Smoo Cave toilet. This will be taken down to the cave on a daily basis due to the remoteness of the cave.

Alistair Morrison will arrange for the purchase and installation.

It is proposed that £500 will be applied for from the Highland Council.

DC also proposed that that Martina Macleod be paid £100 per year as the defibrillator in Balnakeil Village is positioned on her property and her electricity is used for the container.

Action: Alistair Morrison

9. Balnakeil farm dangers

RT stated no reply from Mr. Elliot has been received. It was agreed that RT. RT will resend the message stating that if this work is not done a letter will be sent to the Health and Safety department at the Highland Council.

Action: RT

10. MOD

Military programme for 2024 (amended)

18 – 22nd Nov Typhoons

No update from received from PC.

11. N.H.S.

Patient transport number is 0300 123 1236

DC stated that the NHS messages are not being received by him.

The Community Hall in Tongue is being held back over planning issues.

DC was at the last NHS meeting.

The Community Council are adamant in their unhappiness with the one-day injections at Durness as this does not allow for residents to attend other sessions if unavailable on day specified.

More options are required.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/NHSHighland>

12. Police Matters (Police Constable Allan Cameron N0784)

RT apologised to the Council as the report from PC Cameron dropped off his computer. He reiterated points from memory.

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

13. Reports

1. Durness Community Group

Work on the new playground is due to finish by the end of November.

2. Geopark

FS gave a full report on the work relating to Durness, including:

Gaelic Pilgrim's Trail podcasts

Junior Ranger programmes in KLB High School

3. Treasurer

Current balance £6,700.57

HM gave £125 towards the retirement gift and therefore that is how much I refunded him.

Wind farm funding

DC reported that an application has been received from the Golf club for £6,000 to go towards a new tractor.

The High School has applied for £5,000 for a canoe trailer. This will be shared by the three villages, hence Durness will be billed for £1,700.

DC proposed that the three villages give £450 to the retiring cemetery worker, Dave Thomson, this again will be shared and so Durness will contribute £150.

All the above applications were approved by the Council.

4. Northwest2045

There is a meeting in the Village Hall on 7th November 2024 at 7pm.

5. N & W Sutherland Trust

KC stated the school leaver cheque has been sent.

6. Windfarms

Sallachy wind farm has changed developer.

7. Christmas lights

KC reported there has been £1,500 contributed so far. The Windfarm monies will donate £6000 for the installation.

We had already had £1900.00 donations in for the Christmas lights.

8. Hall

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

14. Highland Council

No update.

15. Planning

RT reported he had received an email from a resident on Ben Tongue stating that as we are a consultee for the spaceport, we should have a say on their application regarding Ben Tongue. This was discussed and it was agreed we should leave this to the Tongue CC.

There is an application re Ard Neakie and it was agreed this should be opposed as the road in question is a public road.

16. Any other business

SM asked for £200 contribution for the firework display. This was agreed.

17. Date of next meeting

Monday 6th January 2025

These Minutes were agreed at the meeting on