

Durness Community Council

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

Monday 3rd January 2025

in the Village Hall

Minutes

- 1. Present**
 - Don Campbell (DC) - Chair
 - Cllr Hugh Morrison (HM) - Ex-officio
 - Ron Tucker (RT) – Secretary
 - Ewen MacRae (EM)
 - Anita Wilson (AW)
 - Non-Council Members**
 - Paul Sinnott (PS)
- 2. Apologies**
 - Fiona Saywell (FS), Scott Macpherson (SM),
 - Kristina Coulton (KC), Barbara Sutherland (BS), PC Cameron (AC),
 - Maj. Philip Curtis (PC) and Steve Woodruff (SW)
- 3. Minutes of the last meeting 28th October 2024**
 - Proposed by AW; seconded by DC. Agreed with amendment that the item under point 11 'Community Hall' be changed to 'Kyle of Tongue Hub'.
- 4. Matters Arising**
 - a. Smoo Cave and Road**
 - A site meeting is required. EM proposed a new idea for a car park to bypass the current problem. It was agreed that this is worth investigating. RT is to write to the residences that will possibly be affected. EM will make further enquiries.
 - Sango car park arrangements were also raised and it was agreed this should be discussed by the full committee. RT will put this on the next Agenda.
 - Action:** RT & EM
 - b. Fire Hydrants**
 - Still awaiting Fire Department.
 - c. Local Place Plan**
 - DC has been in touch with Mr Boyd who has been given permission to assist us with executing this project. This has to be completed by the end of this year.
 - d. Bridge over burn at Clearance Village**
 - There is some confusion about this. EM & DC to investigate.
 - Action:** EM & DC
 - e. 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

f. Defibrillators (Laid)

These have been ordered for Laid and Smoo Cave. They will be paid for out of our windfarm monies.

g. Balnakeil farm dangers

The dangers have been boarded. Matter closed.

5. MOD

RT reported a message was received from PC stating there will be no activity until March. Also, there will be no Joint Warrior this year.

6. N.H.S.

Patient transport number is 0300 123 1236

AW introduced a 'A Quick Guide to care and support personal assistants'.

It was proposed that this should be circulated and posted on noticeboards.

However, DC expressed concern that there is no provision to check and confirm the safety of anyone volunteering for this.

AW also noted that there are still sparse leaflets in the surgery.

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

7. Police Matters (Police Constable Allan Cameron N0784)

Nothing reported.

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

8. Reports

1. Durness Community Group

RT reported that some adjustments have to be made before the playground can be signed off.

2. Geopark

FS emailed the Durness report. Copy attached to the Minutes.

3. Treasurer

DC reported the current balance £8,684.81.

4. Northwest2045

DC attended a meeting which was well supported. Nothing to report.

5. N & W Sutherland Trust

The five communities will receive the annual £42,000 this month.

6. Windfarms

Sallachy is under new ownership. Funds from this farm are expected in 2028.

7. Christmas lights

These are now in place. There were teething problems in fitting and also positioning. The lights will be stored in Durness.

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.

9. Highland Council

HM reported no updates as such, but stated the Joe, the new groundsman for the cemeteries, is doing good work.

EM raised the issue of extending the cemetery. HM said he would make enquiries.

Action: HM

10. Planning

None.

11. Any other business

DC reported that Geopark are requesting £5000 from each community for funding a project. Concern was expressed about this. DC proposed putting it to a full committee at the next meeting.

12. Date of next meeting

Monday 3rd February at 7pm.

These Minutes were agreed at the meeting on

DRAFT