

Durness Community Council

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

Monday 7th April 2025

in the Village Hall

Minutes

- 1. Present**
 - Don Campbell (DC) - Chair
 - Scott Macpherson (SM) – Vice Chair
 - Ron Tucker (RT) – Secretary
 - Kristina Coulton (KC) Treasurer
 - Paul Sinnott (PS)
 - Barbara Sutherland (BS)
 - Cllr Hugh Morrison (HM) - Ex-officio
 - Ewen MacRae (EM),
 - Anita Wilson (AW)
 - Non-Council Members**
 - Fraser Edie (FE)
- 2. Apologies** Fiona Saywell (FS), Maj.Philip Curtis (PC), PC Cameron (AC) and Steve Woodruff (SW).
- 3. Minutes of the last meeting 3rd March 2025**

Proposed by BS; seconded by SM; agreed.
- 4. Matters Arising**
 - a. Smoo Cave and Road**

Fraser Edie stated that the fencing around the cave is in dire need of repair. This is the responsibility of the Highland Council. RT is to write a letter to the Council for the attention of Alistair Stewart.

Action: RT
 - b. Fire Hydrants**

HM was to meet the fire chief for this area to review the situation with the hydrants.

RT confirmed he had written to both the fire department and the water board regarding this situation.

Action: HM
 - c. Local Place Plan**

No further information.
 - d. Road on the Capeside**

Plant and materials go across next week. The work will be concentrated on culverts and ditching work near the ferry house.
 - e. Defibrillators (Laid)**

These have been paid for; we are just awaiting delivery.
 - f. Sango Car Park**

The Highland Council rejected the proposal. This matter is closed.

5. MOD

No update; the previous programme applies.

6. N.H.S.

Patient transport number is 0300 123 1236

No updates.

DC has received a letter saying the new care home in Tongue has been delayed.

RT to write complaining about this.

7. 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.

8. Reports

1. Durness Community Group

This group has made an application for windfarm money. The application, for a bouncy castle and trolley, is for £3000. This was agreed.

2. Geopark

No update. A poster advertising upcoming events was circulated.

3. Treasurer

KC reported that the third party insurance has been paid. The yearly grant from the Highland Council has been received.

Balance £14,235.03

4. Northwest2045

RT will circulate an email received from Sarah Harkin.

5. N & W Sutherland Trust

DC stated that an application has been received for £5000 from each community towards a new school bus for Kinlochbervie High School.

A discussion took place as to why we should contribute and who is paying for the rest of the purchase. It was agreed that more information is required.

6. Windfarms

Regarding the proposed new windfarm at KLB, PS reported that he had noticed several differences between the public meeting and what was stated when they gave this Council a briefing.

7. Christmas lights

HM stated that Keith will put up more brackets.

Signage is required to advertise that we need more lights and funding.

KC will be the link.

AW will sort signage.

RT will ask SW to update Facebook.

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 stated seasonal work is in progress.

Chipping and tarring are being carried out.

KC asked what could be done about the speeding in School Road by the playpark.
HM said he would source extra signage.

Action: HM

10. Planning

SM stated that Philipp Tanzer has reapplied for planning in Balnakeil Craft Village for five dwellings.

No decision was taken.

11. Any other business

None.

12. Date of next meeting

Monday 5th May 2025 at 7pm.

These Minutes were agreed at the meeting on

DRAFT