

## Durness Community Council

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

**Monday 7pm 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

**in the Village Hall**

### **Minutes**

#### **1. Attendance**

Don Campbell (Chair) (DC)  
Ron Tucker (Secretary) (RT)  
Kristina Coulton (Treasurer) (KC)  
Barbara Sutherland (BS)  
Ewan Macrae (EM)  
Councillor Hugh Morrison Ex-Officio (HM)  
Stuart Ross (SR)

#### **2. Apologies**

Major Curtis (MoD)  
Fiona Saywell (Geopark)  
Scott Mc Pherson (SM)  
Anita Wilson (Minutes) (AW)

#### **3. Minutes of the last meeting 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Agreed. Proposed by BS; seconded by EM.

#### **4. Matters Arising**

##### **1. Smoo Cave and Road**

No update.

##### **2. Fire Hydrants**

Still waiting.

##### **3. Defibrillators**

Await fitting.

##### **4. Noticeboard**

Awaits fitting.

##### **5. Local Place Plan**

Rispond harbour can be included on the plan.

#### **5. Bridge over burn at Clearance village**

Neil and Matt Dent have ordered the new bridge. They will need a lift to unload and fit.

#### **6. Road on the Capeside**

Stuart Ross explained how the state of this road is causing him to lose money on his business because the potholes are so large that he cannot run his van over them. This issue is also having a severe impact on two other businesses. HM pointed out this is a road maintained at public expense, i.e. it is the Highland Council's responsibility to maintain it. A long discussion took place and, following SR's statement that he had not received a reply to his letters to the Council, it was

agreed that DC should write to the Chief Executive with copies to the relevant departments.

**Action: DC**

#### **7. Mothballing Nursery**

The Council intend to mothball the Durness nursery next year, due to only one pupil attending. It was then pointed out that there will be three pupils attending in a year's time.

HM agreed to return to the Council and update them.

**Action: HM**

#### **8. Ground Maintenance at the Cemetery**

As the current maintenance person has retired, this job will be advertised.

#### **9. MOD**

No update from Major Curtis.

DC stated there will be exercises 9<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> September and 14<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> October.

#### **10. N.H.S.**

There is to be a meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm in the Durness Village Hall to update the progress of the care home in Tongue.

#### **11. 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.**

#### **12. Reports**

##### **1. Durness Community Group**

There will be yellow collection boxes distributed for fund-raising to purchase some Christmas lights for the village.

##### **2. Geopark**

Updates for the Durness area is on the website and a walking guide for Durness is in progress.

##### **3. Treasurer**

Current balance is £6,800.57.

##### **4. Northwest2045**

Nothing to report at present.

##### **5. N & W Sutherland Trust**

Nothing to report at present.

##### **6. Windfarms**

Monies from the Altnaharra windfarm will last 30-45 years.

##### **7. Christmas lights**

RT circulated copies of the posters created by Anita Wilson to be posted around the village.

#### **13. Highland Council**

Money for the Ranger service is now available, and three part-time Rangers will start on 14<sup>th</sup> May.

Parking in the Sango car park was discussed; this situation is to be reviewed.

#### **14. Planning**

None.

**15. Any other business**

BS raised the issue of the footpath in Sangobeg.

**16. Date of next meeting**

7.00 pm on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July in the Village Hall. This will be an AGM followed by a full Council meeting.

This was subsequently changed to **TUESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> JULY at 7pm.**

These Minutes were agreed at the meeting on...

DRAFT