

Durness Community Council

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

Monday 3rd March 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
Non-Council Members
Carol Brown
- 2. Apologies** Ewen MacRae (EM), Anita Wilson (AW), Fiona Saywell (FS), Maj.Philip Curtis (PC), PC Cameron (AC) and Steve Woodruff (SW).
- 3. Minutes of the last meeting 3rd Feb 2025**
Proposed by KC; seconded by DC; agreed.
- 4. Galileo Empower (Kinlochbervie windfarm) presentation**
Presented by: Laura Petrie (Galileo Empower) and Stan Arnauld (Morrison Media)
This was an introduction to the proposed wind farm. Laura produced a map of the proposal. Concerns were raised regarding:
 - the carbon footprint of the proposal
 - Traffic distraction due to the height and closeness of the site to the A838
 - Size of the energy produced
 - Siting of the necessary grid stationThere will be a public exhibition in Durness Village Hall on 25th March 2025 from 9am -2pm.
- 5. Matters Arising**
 - a. Smoo Cave and Road**
No update
 - b. Fire Hydrants**
Same as February.
Action: RT & HM
 - c. Local Place Plan**
DC stated that a group is being arranged to deal with this project.
 - d. Road on the Capeside**
Sub-contactors are to deal with the culverts which need rebuilding.
Tar needs to be brought over by the MOD which is expected in June 25.
 - e. Defibrillators (Laid)**
Still waiting on supplier.

f. Sango Car Park

RT read out an email from a resident asking the Highland Council to withdraw the signage that invites campervans to park overnight.

6. MOD

DC stated the programme remains the same as last month.

7. N.H.S.

Patient transport number is 0300 123 1236

DC stated that a notice board can be positioned in the surgery.

8. Police Matters (Police Constable Allan Cameron N0784)

RT read out a report from PC Cameron which stated there had been one house break in in the last reporting period 1.1.2025 to 1.3.2025.

He will continue to patrol Durness whenever he can.

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

9. Reports

1. Durness Community Group

No update other than the Playpark gate hinge is dangerous.

2. Geopark

RT read the report from Fiona Saywell (copy attached).

3. Treasurer

KC reported the current balance £13,896.90. The insurance premium of £97.20 is due, this is for the third-party insurance for the Community Council members.

4. Northwest2045

No update.

5. N & W Sutherland Trust

DC stated their AGM was carried out with the same positions as before.

6. Windfarms

It is known that the Village's bouncy castle is no longer fit for purpose. A sum of £2,500 was agreed to pay for a new one when the Hall Committee apply.

7. Christmas lights

The collection for funds is intended to continue for more lights this year. Carol Brown stated she could obtain new brackets. It was agreed that the new lights should be purchased early so that there is no rush in fitting them. It was agreed that there should be more lights around the Square plus another poppy light should be installed.

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.

10. Highland Council

RT again pointed out the email from a resident complaining about the intended levy the Highland Council is intending to charge visitors. This is vehemently opposed by this Council and local residents.

It was proposed that a letter should be sent to the Highland Council stating this Council's objection and asking why campervans/motorhomes will not be liable, whereas residents when having to visit hospital in Inverness and staying overnight in a hotel, for example, will be liable for this levy.

A ranger service to this area will be paid for by the Highland Council.

Action: RT

11. Planning

RT pointed out the application for new house at 21 Durine.

There were no objections.

12. Any other business

Carol Brown has raised the issue of large car rallies descending on Durness and suggested we should help them. A discussion decided that there was no way we could help except where smaller rallies made arrangements with the Hall Committee - which some have already done.

13. Date of next meeting

Monday 7th April 2025 at 7pm.

These Minutes were agreed at the meeting on