

Minutes of the Durness Community Council - DRAFT

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

Monday 2nd March 2020 7.30pm Durness Village Hall

- 1. Present:** Scott Macpherson (SM) - Chair
 Sarah Fuller (SF) - Treasurer
 Ron Tucker (RT) - Secretary
 Ewen MacRae (EM)
 Cllr Hugh Morrison (HM)

Also present: Janet Hollands (JH), Kathy Parker (KP), Barbara Sutherland (BS) and Anita Wilson (AW).

Apologies

Don Campbell (DC), Major Curtis, PC Fraser Mitchell and Rev Boyes.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Proposed by SF and SM. Agreed and passed.

3. New Co-opted members

Three residents asked to be co-opted onto the committee:

Janet Hollands was proposed by SM and seconded by SF, passed.

Anita Wilson was proposed by EM and seconded by RT, passed.

Barbara Sutherland was proposed by SF and seconded by SM, passed.

The new members were welcomed to the committee by SM.

4. Durness Church

Rev Andrea Boyes was unable to attend the meeting.

HM reported that the situation is now so bad that Rev Boyes has ceased using the church and all functions of the church are carried out in the village hall, including funerals.

5. Matters arising

M.O.D.

No update.

RT reported that Jamie Stone MP had been consulted regarding the poor state of the road on the Cape. Mr Stone said he could raise the matter in the House and propose that monies be found from the Defence budget as a gesture of goodwill.

N.H.S. Highlands

Nothing to report.

Sallachy wind farm

Consultation date for Durness is 1st April 3.30pm-7pm in the Village Hall.

Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund

A discussion took place regarding possible sites for extra car parking in Durness, the main preference being the area to the east of Hames place and west of the bus stop. It was decided that Ian Wilson, Factor for the Durness Estate, should be contacted to establish if the area could be obtained by the Community Council.

Disposal of chemical toilet waste to be added as an extra facility in the village, possibly with a charge attached.

It was agreed that RT should raise the issue with the Durness Development Group and contact Ian Wilson regarding the land.

Action: RT

Children's Play Area

No further information.

Beach Awards

RT has submitted the application. SF has applied for a discretionary award to cover the cost of the application.

Fencing

It was agreed the RT would contact Matt Dent and ask for a date when he can attend; as many other interested parties as possible should attend on that date.

Action: RT

Car Park Charges

A discussion took place over the pros and cons of the council's proposals. It was unanimously agreed that this whole proposal was a non-starter in Durness. However, it was agreed that the charge for the toilets at the Smoo Cave car park was a good idea if there was a facility to pay by card. SM will let the Highland Council know our decisions.

Action: SM

Road by Hostel

Still awaits action.

The Highland Council **WILL** cut back the bushes.

Noticeboards

The new noticeboard will be attached to the toilet block adjacent to the Spar.

Action: SF

6. Police matters

HM stated there was nothing to report.

7. Reports

Durness Development Group

RT reported that the website is still under construction.

Geopark

No update.

Treasurer

SF is still working on gaining full access to the account.

The Community Council insurance, £86, has been paid.

8. Planning

Wildland Ltd

There was still a need to know exactly where the boundary between Durness and Tongue lies, south of Hope and Ben Hope. The official map is not sufficiently detailed. RT will contact Phil Tomalin.

Action: RT

Shed at Keodale

No objections.

9. Highland Council

HM reported that we await to see if the intended funding for road repairs, will materialise.

Balnakiel Cemetery

Concerns were again raised that the cemetery is getting full and the matter should be raised with the Highland Council.

Action: HM

10. Petition re the roads

RT reported that Jamie Stone MP was consulted at the recent surgery regarding the state of the roads. Mr Stone stated Transport is fully devolved but Tourism only partially so; therefore, a case could be made for monies from the central Tourism budget to be made available to improve and maintain the Highland roads affected by increased usage following the introduction of the North Coast 500.

Similar concerns to ours had been raised with Jamie Stone by Tongue Community Council earlier the same day. Jamie Stone said that he had suggested they should organise a petition. He recommended that we did the same and that liaison with other local Community Councils would add weight to the cause.

A discussion ensued and agreed the following roads needed urgent repair: the road south of Sarsgrum to Little Bridge; Balnakiel to the cemetery; and Ferry Road.

The idea of a petition was agreed, and RT said he would liaise with Jamie Stone's office regarding the wording.

Action: RT and HM

11. Gulley Cleaning

SM reported that gulley-clearing in the area had been carried out and they should not flood again soon. Ideally, the use of a 'Jetter' would help the clearing.

12. A.O.B.

Space Port

The question of whether this committee supported the space centre on the A'Mhoine was raised. A discussion took place and concluded that this committee would not take a position at this time.

Walking booklets

A discussion took place as to how much we should charge for these booklets.

Delayed until next meeting.

13. Date of next meeting:

Monday 6th April 2020 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

These Minutes were agreed at the meeting on.....