

SCOURIE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 27th March 2017 at 8.00pm in Scourie Village Hall

Present: - Mr Donald Fisher - Chair, Mr Neil MacDonald - Vice-Chair, Mr Alistair Mackay - Treasurer, Cllr. Hugh Morrison, Mrs Vanessa Crowsley (co-opted temporarily until June)

Apologies: - Mrs Julie Allen - Secretary, Mr George Leligdowicz, Mr Julian Pearce and PC Silcock

Minutes of the previous meeting -

Approval: - Proposed by Alistair MacKay and seconded by Neil MacDonald

Matters arising: - 2 Action points remain outstanding; these will be attended to promptly.

Highland Council -

- *Planning Applications:* - None.

Highland Community Planning Partnership: - The Chairman feels it is important that S&DCC has representation at the Durness meeting on 9th May and the matter will be discussed at our April meeting to confirm the person attending.

Association of 6 N&W Community Councils: -

- *Update:* - Donald reported that the group of representatives comprising the Association is functioning well in its objective to amplify the voices of the disparate community councils. It wishes to build on this to realize a larger presence and greater recognition, an administrator will be required to assist in this and funds for the new post are being sought.
- *Highland Commission for Local Democracy:* - Isobel McCallum (Highland Ccl. Convenor) attended the meeting at which representatives were able to inform her of local circumstances and highlight the difference in resources between West and East communities of which she was unaware.
- *Community Resilience Plans:* - T.H.C. Emergency Planning Officer gave a presentation and is keen for each community to have a scheme in place. To this end he offered to hold a workshop locally to give guidance on drawing up the plan. Funding is available from S.S.E. and could cover the cost of equipment needed in a crisis, e.g. a generator and satellite phones. Donald will approach him to organise a workshop.

Maldie Burn Community Fund: - The treasurer reported that application forms have been requested by the Village Hall Committee and the Over 60s' Event Organisers. Alistair will request the advert is re-run in the Scourie News.

Scourie Community Development Co. Ltd: -

- *Geo Centre:* - Neil reported that progress is ongoing.

North West Highlands Geopark Ltd: - Although unable to attend in person Jean MacKay kindly provided a written report on the present situation, which was read out at the meeting. In summary: - Funding insecurity for the 2017~ 18 financial year may result in the loss of its UNESCO status and lead to redundancies and reduced hours for remaining staff. Due to ill health of the licensee, the Rock Stop Cafe will be run by Geopark staff this season. Pebble Route leaflets will be available throughout the park, a full set will retail at £5. The Geopark is keen to hear from any outlets wishing to sell these and will supply a point of sale display stand.

NC500: - No news at present, it will be discussed next month if required.

Website: - The list of S&DCC members should be updated, Vee will email the Webmaster.

Noticeboard: - Neil volunteered to drill ventilation holes along the bottom edge, but cannot guarantee a timescale as he is busy at the moment. Inserting the magnetic backing from the old board will be discussed next month.

Fibre Optic Broadband: - The Chairman reported that the “guaranteed speed” is not being delivered and connectivity is interrupted 2 - 3 times a day. S&DCC is anxious that BT is not meeting its obligations and is keen to hear from anyone else with similar problems or ongoing connection delays. It was also noted that BT has opened up the network to one company only and this is Plusnet, a subsidiary within the BT group. Real competitors are still waiting for BT to give them access. It was questioned whether H.I.E. should be made aware of this delay in fair competition.

S&DCC Accounts & AGM: - The Treasurer confirmed that the accounts are up to date and will be presented at the AGM. He reported that funding from T.H.C. this year was down by £90 (approx. 12% down on last year).

Scotland Invasive Species Initiative (SISI): - A letter of support has been sent at the request of Shona Marshall (W. Sutherland Fisheries Trust)

Bonfire Site Clearance: - Angus Marland (Scourie Lodge) has contacted S&DCC in the hope of clearing the remnants of November’s bonfire at the Harbour and re-seeding the burnt ground. Neil volunteered to remove the debris and will find a suitable location to stack the partially burned logs and dispose of the metal work. In the past the area has re-grown naturally without re-seeding the site.

Recent Community Event - Tea for the Over 60s’: - Donald attended along with 20+ pensioners who were all made to feel very welcome. He thought it was a brilliant example of Highland hospitality and felt the S&DCC should be supportive and recognise the initiative of the organisers to provide this service for local senior citizens.

A.O.C.B.

- On behalf of S&DCC, Donald offered sincere thanks to Cllr. Hugh Morrison for all his hard work and support. Having a Councillor with local knowledge is very much appreciated and all wished him every success in the forthcoming election.
- Cllr Morrison reported that scrub/shrub cutting along roadside verges was recently completed.
- Alistair reported that there is a deep pothole to fill at Handa Terrace. Cllr Morrison will take this forward.

The meeting closed at 21.25

The next meeting is at 8.00pm on Monday 24th April in Scourie Village Hall

Action 1	Address 2 outstanding action points from February	Donald
Action 2	Arrange workshop for Resilience Plan	Donald
Action 3	Request re-run of advert for M.B.C.F. applicants	Alistair
Action 4	Request update to S&DCC members on website	Vee
Action 5	Drill ventilation holes in noticeboard	Neil
Action 6	Note any complaints received about fibre broadband	Donald
Action 7	Clear bonfire site at Scourie Harbour	Neil
Action 8	Request pothole repair at Handa Terrace	Hugh