

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 24th September 2018 at 8.00pm in Scourie Village Hall

Present: - Donald Fisher - Chair, Neil MacDonald - Vice-Chair, Julie Allen - Secretary, Vanessa Crowsley - Treasurer, Julian Pearce, Alistair MacKay, Cllr. Hugh Morrison. Jean MacKay, Alan Cunningham, Gillian Burtwell.

Apologies: - George Leligdowicz, PC Frazer Mitchell, Phil Tomalin.

Minutes of the previous meeting -

Approval: - Proposed by Neil MacDonald, seconded by Julie Allen

Matters arising: - *Update on Air Ambulance landing sites* - Hugh reported that the meeting in July was well represented by local communities and was convened to assess the suitability of a single night-time site to overcome various problems that have arisen at individual sites. Rhiconich had previously been identified as central to the whole Scourie/Kinlochbervie/Durness region but other options were also discussed and sites duly visited. Funding to create a permanent designated site(s) will come from the charity "Help". The final decision on location(s) has not yet been made.

Crash barriers: - Hugh was unable to give any positive news in this regard. With only one trained member of staff available it seems unlikely that any progress will be made in the short or medium term. Julie suggested contractors should be employed to get the job done. Hugh will chase again. All agreed the safety implications are dire.

Police Matters: - None to our knowledge.

Highland Council -

Planning Applications: - None

New High-visibility Entrance Road Signs To Scourie: - Hugh has spoken to Graham MacKenzie (Area Manager Caithness & Sutherland), who advised that signs have been authorised but the work remains unscheduled. Cllr. Morrison will chase this again along with the promised smiley face interactive road-safety sign.

Proposed Closure of Public Toilets – Hugh advised that Debbie Sutton will attend 3 meetings in the next two months. Firstly the Ward Business Meeting on 8th October, then on 25th October to put the report's recommendations to the full Council and a third meeting on 15th November with the Sutherland Area Committee to advise which recommendations are approved for adoption. Margaret Meek has arranged a meeting between Cllr Davidson and one member from each NW Community Council. It will be held in Inverness and either Vee or Julie will represent S&DCC (dependant on date).

Scheme Review 2018/19- Highland Community Councils: - Donald met with our Ward Manager and the Chairs of neighbouring community councils about the review process. They felt the questionnaire was cumbersome and far too involved to be a workable document. Donald also made the point that there is a widespread feeling that The Highland Council does not communicate well with its Community Councils and that this problem needs to be addressed by The Highland Council if Community Councils are to be effective in representing the interests of their respective communities. Phil Tomalin will report feedback to THC.

Maldie Burn Community Benefit Fund: -

Early approval was ratified for the application by Scourie Primary School for their history trip. A second application from the School to cover travel costs for an additional music teacher contained some discrepancies. George (via email) requested S&DCC seek clarification of the costs and also suggested the School obtain some funding from other sources such as the Creative Scotland Youth Music Initiative (YMI), to which all agreed. Neil will ask for a revised application. It was agreed assessment should take place alongside all other applications after the October deadline. The new S&DCC email address ScourieandDCC@gmail.com will be used to receive online applications or by post to the Secretary at Kylestrome. Julie will monitor incoming mail and circulate accordingly. Advertisements will be placed in the Scourie News, on the Scourie Facebook page and on local notice boards inviting new applications during October.

Scourie Community Development Company Limited: -

Neil reported that SCDC is struggling for committee members. Volunteers are needed to join a sub-committee to work on Scourie core projects which will be separate from the Geocentre Project. He emphasised that without community support fund sourcing becomes impossible. Evidence of community engagement is key to any application. Scope for moving ahead with the Geocentre Project is very encouraging.

North West Highlands Geopark Limited: - Jean advised that the Rock Stop Cafe is open for business 7 days per week and will continue through the shoulder season whilst it remains economical to do so. Plans to upgrade the kitchen in the winter are in hand. Visitor numbers this year are up to 6300, a considerable increase on previous years. The NWH Geopark will hire a fundraising consultant in due course. The Leader Project has been fraught with problems taking up a disproportionate amount of time and the planned signage must be scaled back due to red-tape hindering the installation. U.N.E.S.C.O. revalidation is due next year which involves an extensive and meticulous form filling exercise that must be completed before January

Creag Riabhach and Sallachy Wind Farm Developments – Potential Community Benefit Payments for S&DCC: - Neil went to the recent meeting and learned that, in addition to receipt of the standard community benefit payments, communities can invest in the wind farm project and receive a return as stakeholders. He will attend the next meeting to find out more information on 4th November in Lairg.

Remembrance Sunday: -

It was agreed that the wreath should be ordered from Jaguar funds, with delivery to the Secretary's address, it takes about a week to arrive. Julie offered to find 2 young volunteers to lay the wreath for the 100 year celebration. Hugh will enquire about memorial cleaning by THC and also obtain a quote to renovate the inscription.

Future of Scourie & District Community Ccl. – Co-opting of New Members and Future Sustainability: -

The next round of elections are due in November 2019 and in the meantime S&DCC must ensure meetings are quorate. A discussion to achieve this ensued. THC rules preclude any further co-opted members. Therefore it was decided that members must "reply to all" to the Chairman's advance email reminder, confirming that they are available. The meeting will be rescheduled if less than 4 can attend. Jean agreed to become minute recorder for the winter, with Julie to cover absences. Donald will stand down as Chair at the next meeting.

A.O.C.B.: -

Road closures by film companies: - The recent closure reminded members that in the past an ex-gratia payment was made to the affected community. Donald will request a meeting with Colin Simpson (THC) to insist that the compensation paid by the industry goes to the community inconvenienced by the closure and not into Highland Council coffers.

Collapse of the Smiddy: - Gary Ballantyne (Building Standards Surveyor THC) will issue the Smiddy owner with an enforcement notice to make the building safe.

Housing: - It is reported that a local housing trust wish to explore the need for more housing in the village but no contact with S&DCC received to date.

Offlet clearing: - Surface water is yet again a problem due to the lack of maintenance to roadside offlets. Cllr Morrison will take this forward with the manager of the local roads team.

Playpark: - Julie advised that the community want us to chase this intensively to get the equipment repaired. Hugh will follow this up again and keep Julie up to date.

Boat House BBQ, a donation of £300 was agreed from the Jaguar fund.

Action Point Review: - All action points, not carried forward below, were completed.

The next meeting is on Monday 26th November 2018 at 8:00pm in Scourie Village Hall

The meeting closed at 22:10

Action 1	Liaise with James Fryer re beach clean and order a skip	Julian
Action 2	Chase crash barrier repairs	Hugh
Action 3	Paint benches	Neil/Julian
Action 4	Chase non replies for Resilience Plan GDPR consent	Vee
Action 5	Chase village entry and smiley face signs	Hugh
Action 6	Contact Margaret Meek re WC Closure meeting Vee/Julie	Vee
Action 7	Liaise with Primary Sch. to resubmit application for Maldi Funds	Neil
Action 8	Invite applications to Maldi Fund during October	Vee
Action 9	Circulate received Maldi Fund applications	Julie
Action 8	Order wreath	Vee
Action 9	Ask girls to lay wreath	Julie
Action 10	Ask THC to clean war memorial and obtain a quote for re-lettering.	Hugh
Action 11	Request a meeting with Colin Simpson	Donald
Action 12	Chase offlet clearance	Hugh
Action 13	Chase playpark repairs and notify Julie of result	Hugh
Action 14	Arrange donation of £300 for Boat House BBQ	Vee