

SCOURIE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

Present: - Donald Fisher - Chair, Neil MacDonald – Vice Chair, Alistair Mackay - Treasurer, Julian Pearce, Vanessa Crowsley, Cllr. Hugh Morrison and Jean MacKay.

Apologies: - Julie Allen - Secretary and George Leligdowicz.

Minutes of the previous meeting -

Approval: - Proposed by Alistair MacKay and seconded by Julian Pearce.

Matters arising: - Jenny Allen & Michelle Ross did an excellent job in jointly laying the Remembrance Sunday wreath.

Highland Council -

Planning Applications: - Several mobile network masts were approved in the wider area for 4G and 5G connectivity recently.

Maldie Burn Community Fund: -

- Further information is still awaited supporting the Jujitsu Club application. Neil to chase
- It was agreed that £180 should be allocated for a block of 12 weeks to cover the cost of hall fees for Primary School football tuition. Neil to speak to Tony
- A decision regarding the War Memorial renovation cost will be deferred until January.
- A contribution was agreed toward the cost of an interactive speed detection sign with a smiley face.

Scourie Community Development Co. Ltd: -

- *Geo Centre:* - The Shelley Collection is purchased on a 50 year lease for the people of NW Sutherland. The Geo Centre needs to be designed and built within 5 years. Due to the scale of the undertaking a sub group will be assigned to the project working in partnership with local agencies and organisations.
- *The Company AGM* was held in November, but was poorly attended; a further meeting will be held in January to get more people on the board.
- Hugh reported that THC is contracting out local grass cutting etc which could generate a modest income should SCDC want to take it on.

North West Highlands Geopark Ltd: - Jean MacKay reported that the future is looking a lot more optimistic with sufficient working capital available until February 2019. Tasks are split between volunteers and part time staff. The Rock Stop Cafe is being redecorated but the kitchen will have to wait for another year due to the timing of the grant award. The AGM is on Saturday 20th January in Scourie Village Hall at 12:00 chaired by David MacLeod.

North West Sutherland Community Council Forum: - Jamie stone gave a talk at the meeting on 4th November; he was fully informed and now understands that this is a very remote, sparsely populated collection of disparate communities. To achieve recognition of this in the House of Commons he will look at the possibility of evoking an early day motion to highlight the regions plight. The next meeting is due in March

Scourie Land Drain, flooding problems: - The frequency and scale of flooding has increased on land between Achlochan and the Sheiling barn; constant water logging is degrading the croft land and also damaging property. The 'Big Drain' is not working properly, possibly due to (a) poor design (a grating to prevent debris entering the pipe is vertical instead of at 45 degrees which causes matter to become trapped against the bars and obstructs the pipe) or (b) flow being adversely affected by the introduction of 3 right angle bends along the pipe in 2006/7 beneath the Albyn Housing site. A charge for surface water drainage is levied by Scottish Water for the upkeep of such infrastructure (via water rates for residences and by direct billing for businesses) yet despite the community paying for it, no maintenance is ever witnessed. Hugh was asked to ascertain whether responsibility lies with Scottish Water or THC under contract.

Village Entry Signage: - Hugh has reported the need for replacement to THC and it is hoped that new countdown signs will be in place by summer 2018; he continues to chase this on our behalf. He advised that the interactive 'smiley face' sign can be loaned to Scourie for 2 or 3 months only. It was decided that purchasing a unit at a cost of £4000 is also required, 50% of the finding is already in place with the other 50% being sought.

"Around Scourie" Booklet: - At a previous meeting Jean requested a revamp and reprint of this booklet so that it can be sold at the Rock Stop Cafe and other local outlets. One of the original authors has been approached and is willing to help; other volunteers could be sought via the Scourie News. Jean will ask Mary if she prefers to undertake the task herself or to co-ordinate a small working group to complete and fully cost the job.

Scourie Resilience Plan: - Vee brought 2 copies of the current working document to the meeting for perusal (copies were also emailed to all members of S&DCC prior to the meeting). Stephen Mardon has offered to run a tabletop exercise at the Village Hall to demonstrate how it will work in the event of an incident and Vee will liaise with him to organise this. The VHF equipment can now be purchased but installation costs may need to be covered by the Maldie Burn Fund, which was agreed in principle.

MacKay Country Trust - Robb Donn Trail: - Ronnie Lansley is seeking feedback on the display board information for Scourie. Donald will forward the email to S&DCC members for comment.

A.O.C.B: -

A request for an additional 3 sockets for Christmas lighting has been forwarded to the department concerned by Cllr. Morrison. It is hoped this will be done shortly along with repairs to faulty lamp posts along Scouriemore.

The growing instances of standing water on local roads are a hazard, with no evidence of the local maintenance team working to resolve the problem. Cllr. Morrison will make enquiries in this respect.

A Marine Litter & Pollution working group is taking place in Ullapool on 28th November; Cllr Morrison intends to highlight the successful beach clearance that took place in Scourie over the summer. He will report back any points of interest raised. Continuation of the local beach clean will be discussed in January if required

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

The next meeting is on Monday 29th January 2018 at 8:00pm in Scourie Village Hall

The meeting closed at 21:35

Action 1	Chase information request re Jujitsu club funding application	Neil
Action 2	Scourie Walks leaflet - Source a combined wrack and donation box for use in 2018 tourist season	Neil
Action 3	Liaise with Tony Reynoldson re Primary Sch football tuition	Neil
Action 4	Ascertain responsibility for maintenance of the big drain	Hugh
Action 5	Monitor progress of new village entry signs	Hugh
Action 6	Contact Mary re "Around Scourie" revamp - solo or co-ordinator?	Jean
Action 7	Resilience Plan - Organise tabletop exercise with S Mardon	Vee
Action 8	Request work schedule of local roads team re surface water etc	Hugh
Action 9	Circulate MacKay Country email for comment	Donald
Action 10	Raise 'Extending the Beach Clean' in AOCB at next meeting	Donald
Action 11	Confirm a dog-fouling notice was placed in Scourie News	George