

South Harris Community Council Meeting 16/1/2024 via Zoom

Present – Donnie MacDonald – Chair; Lucy Duff – Vice-Chair; Marion Morrison – Treasurer; Stephen MacKinnon – Secretary; Patricia Martin – SHCC; Caroline Chaffer – SHCC; Bob Chaffer – SHCC; Julian Saurin – SHCC; Cllr Grant Fulton

1. Apologies – Cllr Paul Finnegan
2. Minutes of meeting of 14/11/23 – Proposed by Marion and seconded by Patricia.
3. Action from meeting of 14/11/23 –
 - Luskenryre Cemetery – **Cllr Fulton to check if police can enforce by-law before next sub-group meeting of 29/1/24.**
 - Rodel Toilets – Closed at moment. No word from Historic Scotland regarding funding. Ideally funding could be obtained from either the Challenge Fund or Crown Estate to fund a cleaner as well as replenishment of cleaning supplies. Otherwise, a rota of volunteers could be arranged. **Cllr Fulton to check on details of Challenge Fund.** Crown Estate likely to be same as last year.
 - Leverburgh Playpark – Cllr Finnegan has arranged a meeting for next week. **Lucy to contact Linda/Catriona to ask to attend on behalf of SHCC**, Donnie happy to be available as well.
 - Nursery Provision – Lucy provided an update that a leader has been found for 3 days a week fixed term until the end of the school year. In August it will be back to the same situation of looking for someone again. **Cllr Fulton to check for any updates from CNES.**
 - Community Garden – Funding required for equipment, this could come from Challenge Fund and/or Crown Estate.
4. Co-Opting of New Member – The co-option of Effie MacLeod was proposed by Lucy Duff and seconded by Marion Morrison. **Stephen to invite Effie to next meeting and send details to CNES along with constitution.**
5. Constitution – Donnie MacDonald proposed approving the constitution which was seconded by Bob Chaffer. All agreed. **Donnie, Lucy, and Stephen to sign.**
6. Housing Update –
 - HHP have lodged application for 12 houses project in Leverburgh, including agreed contract with contractor, with housing officers in Inverness. Technical Officers from Scottish Government looking over now.
 - Agreed that the housing sub-group will draft a letter to be send to the housing officers in Inverness outlining the community need for this project to go ahead. **Sub-group to meet early next week if possible.** It is hoped this letter will be co-signed by Harris Councillors, Alastair Allan MSP, Donald Crichton of Sustainable Development Committee at CNES, and any other interested parties.

7. Traffic and Road Signage –

- A brief preliminary report regarding road safety was circulated by Julian in advance of the meeting, which was then discussed at the meeting.
- The huge concentration of local services within the area of concern between Dunmore Crescent and the Church of Scotland was highlighted.
- There is only one speed restriction sign for 30mph between the pier and the temporary 20mph sign just before the school, and the view of this is often restricted by parked cars.
- Discussion over the benefits of introducing a 20mph speed limit. To have effect this would have to be enforced with engineering solutions rather than just signage.
- **Julian and Stephen to send email to Cllr Fulton requesting that CNES carry out a traffic survey during the summer months to gather accurate data on volume and speed of traffic.**

8. Solar Street Lighting –

- Bob explained his idea of proposing a trial of solar street lighting in a selected area to CNES. This would be backed with a report showing efficacy and cost benefit analysis.
- Cllr Finnagan had emailed that having checked with CNES, they had previously tried highway lighting as well as solar lighting within the Castle Grounds but had yet to be successful in winter due to lack of day light which caused maintenance issues.
- **Cllr Fulton happy to work with Bob to sound out CNES to see if this is something worth pursuing to help in budget savings.**

9. A.O.C.B –

- CNES Cyber Attack – Cllr Fulton advised that work is still ongoing to recover files and data. Email is still the best method of contact.
- Tarbert Sports Hall – Agreed that SHCC should back Gordon MacDonald in his letter of complaint about lack of access to Tarbert Sports Hall. **Stephen to contact.**
- Leverhulme School Gym Lettings – Stephen updated that he has been unsuccessful in getting an answer on whether gym is available to let. He has emailed CNES again with Cllr Fulton copied in. **Cllr Fulton has passed on to Steven Munro at CNES and will get back to Stephen when he hears back.**

Date of Next Meeting – 5th March 2024 at 7.30pm in Leverburgh Free Church Hall