

South Harris Community Council Minutes 14/3/2023 in Leverburgh Free Church Hall

Present – Donnie MacDonald – Chair; Marion Morrison – Treasurer; Stephen MacKinnon – Secretary; Jenny MacAulay; Lucy Duff; John R MacLean; Caroline Chaffer; Cllr Fulton; David MacDonald – Harris Forum Development Officer

Apologies – Effie MacLeod – Vice-Chair; Cllr Finnegan

1. Development Officer –
 - New Harris Forum Development Officer – David MacDonald – was welcomed to the meeting. He spoke briefly about how he sees his role.
 - Harris Plan is currently being updated and any updates should be sent to David. Format is being changed from Word to Excel and a matrix for scoring priorities is being developed.
 - David is keen for the forum to be promoted more widely for people in the wider community to know what the Harris Plan is.
 - His priorities are set by the Harris Forum, while he is line managed, and payroll administered by Harris Development Limited (HDL). Funding comes from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).
 - He will be encouraging groups to work together and to avoid duplication of ideas.
 - Stephen to tell Leverhulme Hub and Northton Heritage Trust to get more of their plans into Harris Plan as currently they are only represented twice.
2. Approval of Previous Minutes 20/1/23 – Proposed by Marion and seconded by Jenny.
3. Matters Arising – Jenny asked Head Teacher about Gym bookings and was told to try booking again. It's likely to be October now before Badminton club try again.
4. Housing Update –
 - At the housing meeting it was agreed there would be a monthly update between Donnie, our Councillors, and HHP. At the previous zoom meeting Sawan from HHP confirmed that planning is in, CNES have received and are processing.
 - Waiting list is still at 13.
 - 12 houses planned but HHP are only committing to build 6 in first phase. Donnie is still pushing for the full 12 to be built based on the waiting list, the financial argument, and the the obvious community benefit. Donnie is in contact with Councillors as well as Officers. He is continuing to push with the support of Councillor Fulton and Councillor Finnegan.
 - A Harris Forum sub-group on housing for the whole of Harris has been set up and met for the first time yesterday – Donnie is representing SHCC on the sub-group.
 - A community consultation is taking place in Tarbert for the HDL accommodation housing project on Thursday.
 - Discussion over why pre fabricated housing or other innovative types of housing aren't considered. Grant said that he raised this previously and HHP said that they wouldn't be able to get support of banks for it.
 - Donnie and Grant are due to meet Callum Iain Maclver, CNES. He has confirmed in writing to Grant that the view of CNES is that the number of houses that get planning permission is the number of houses that should be built. Donnie will update by email after this meeting.

- Caroline said that everyone should be thinking ahead 5 years and beyond towards further housing. Start the communication over land and processes now.
- Surveyor has been to Leverburgh site and it is understood that the proposed access road has been changed.

5. Community Transport Meeting Update –

- Donnie and Stephen attended a Transport Consultation event held in Seallam!, Northton last week. This was looking at joined up routes for buses, ferries, getting elderly people to amenities and local hubs.
- It is thought that there is some funding available for improving local transport connections.
- It was agreed that the previous experience of a community minibus was difficult with upfront costs, maintenance, and finding drivers. It was instead agreed to work with existing local businesses to improve their offer. Donnie has spoke to Raymond Campbell of South Harris Coaches who was very positive about it. Donnie will report back on this.
- Isobel Campbell of Leverburgh Home also attended and reported that the home now has a five seater vehicle available for community use, with space for at least 1 wheelchair. Although this will be based in Leverburgh, it will be available for the whole of Harris.

6. Challenge Fund Update –

- SHCC was successful in application for Rodel toilets and grass cutting.
- Formal request made to Grant for ward funding to assist further with Rodel toilets.

7. Finances –

- Current balance is £4,210.16.
- £1,000 being held for South Harris Sports. Stephen to ask Harris FC for a letter committing to using money for benefit of South Harris kids whether that is for strips, mileage, or equipment. Once that has been received, Marion will write cheque.
- £1,000 being held from SSE Covid Grant. Marion to write £500 cheque to Leverburgh Parent Council and £500 to Leverburgh Care Home.
- £656.14 has been spent on Rodel toilets so far, £300 of this was for Public Liability Insurance.

8. Bays of Harris Buyout – Chair of Steering Group John Maher was in touch with Donnie, email was circulated in advance of meeting. Agreed that John's email will be circulated and anyone interested put in touch with him. Donnie to reply.

9. Neptune Consultation – Consultation on ferries being carried out by Angus Campbell. Marion attended on behalf of SHCC and made representations. Report is being put together by Angus Campbell.

10. Crafters Commission – Agreed to share appeal for members on South Harris Residents Facebook page.

11. Peat Survey – Agreed survey will be publicised on South Harris Residents Facebook page.

12. A.O.C.B –

- Agreed that a link to E-Sgire where all SHCC minutes are published will be shared in De Tha Dol as well as on the South Harris Residents Page. Requests for agenda items will also be requested.
- HMPA Proposals – Agreed that this is a ridiculous and dangerous proposal for the whole of Harris. It was agreed that the 3 Harris Community Councils should release a joint statement.
- Agree to invite Patricia Martin from Scarista to attend next meeting where she can be co-opted on to the committee.

Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 23rd May