

South Harris Community Council Minutes 5/3/2024 in Leverburgh Free Church Hall

Present – Donnie MacDonald – Chair; Lucy Duff – Vice-Chair; Marion Morrison – Treasurer; Stephen MacKinnon – Secretary; Councillor Paul Finnegan; Councillor Grant Fulton

1. Apologies – Bob Chaffer; Julian Saurin; Patricia Martin, Caroline Chaffer
2. Minutes of last meeting 16/1/2024 were proposed by Lucy and seconded by Marion.
3. Matters Arising – None
4. Housing Update –
 - An announcement is expected this Friday from the Scottish Government about whether the additional funding will be granted to the Leverburgh housing project.
 - As well as a press release from the housing sub-group to the Housing Minister, numerous letters from individuals and businesses within the community have been submitted.
 - The Scottish Government doubled the unit price cost from £94k which is thought to be a positive sign.
5. Traffic and Road Signs –
 - The report from Julian Saurin was sent by Cllr Fulton to John MacLeod, CNES Roads Department. A copy of his reply has been circulated but the summary is that if the national rollout of 20mph is progressed it's unlikely they will carry out traffic surveys at each location. The request has been noted.
 - New signs have been erected at either side approaching the Clachan.
 - Lack of police presence to carry out speed testing continues to be a major problem. **It was agreed that the Chief Inspector for the Western Isles should be invited to a future meeting of reps from each community council in Harris.**
6. Nursery Provision –
 - The most recent employee left to pursue another opportunity after 1 month. Another employee is in place 2 days a week initially, moving up to 3 after that until the end of term.
 - A top priority identified by parents is making sure that this employee can continue after the summer holidays in August. There will be 6 to 7 kids attending nursery in August.
 - Councillor Finnegan suggested bringing in the Care Inspectorate to the Parent Council.
 - An SVQ 3 is needed to work unsupervised in nursery. Someone working towards this can work under a trained supervisor. This can be obtained within months or over a year. It was suggested that if a supervisor was in place at Leverburgh, the opportunity to study and work to obtain this qualification should be advertised to build future resilience.
 - **Cllr Finnegan to check position with current play leader and to check budgets in place.**
7. Community Clean Up –
 - CNES can't promise an additional skip this year so have suggested using the one at the pier after having it emptied in advance.
 - Date will depend on school's availability to participate. Catriona MacLennan is speaking to the Head Teacher and will be in touch with Donnie.

- Donnie to collect gloves and other equipment.
8. Harris FC – It was agreed that £500 should be donated in line with the other community councils in Harris. **Marion to send cheque.**
9. Play Park –
- Donnie has told Linda Armstrong and Catriona MacLennan that SHCC is happy to help as well as confirming that the Harris Forum still have this project as the number one priority in the Harris Plan.
 - Cllr Finnegan met with Catriona MacLennan and Owen Williams from the Parent Council today.
 - CNES received £300k in funding for play parks. Leverburgh is top of the list of 8 projects but is still unclear how much the project will receive and what the timescale would be.
 - One of the delays is due to the workload of the CNES Design team.
 - Another meeting has been arranged to take place in a month's time to find a solution.
 - Donnie expressed dissatisfaction that it has been a year since their play park closed and that the community council is not happy with the time that the process is taking.
10. Luskentyre Cemetery –
- The campaigners met recently with the two Harris Councillors, and reps from the 3 CC's, and David MacLeod – CNES Environmental Services. The wording of new signage was agreed for entering the village as well as at the car parks.
 - Signage was agreed for the main road to divert traffic away from the village on days of funerals, as well as at the cemetery car parks.
 - The gates of the car parks will not be closed.
 - 4 or 5 car parking spaces will be allocated and marked on the tarmac and by signage to reserve spaces for cemetery users only.
11. A.O.C.B –
- CLLD funding – A potential underspend has been identified (around £10k) – Cllr Fulton to find out what the position is and report back. Rodel toilets upkeep was discussed as a potential use.
 - The Chair Donnie MacDonald formally thanked the housing sub-committee for their assistance in putting press releases and letters together.
 - **Minutes since October to be send to CNES by Stephen.**

Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 7th May 2024