

South Harris Community Council Minutes 16/04/2024 in Leverburgh Free Church Hall

Present – Donnie MacDonald – Chair; Lucy Duff – Vice-Chair; Stephen MacKinnon – Secretary; Bob Chaffer; Effie MacLeod; Julian Saurin; Patricia Martin, Caroline Chaffer; Councillor Grant Fulton

1. Apologies – Marion Morrison – Treasurer; Councillor Paul Finnegan;
2. Minutes of last meeting 05/03/2024 were proposed by Lucy and seconded by Cllr Fulton
3. Matters Arising – None
4. Nursery –
 - **Cllr Finnegan to speak to Donald MacLeod, Chief Officer for Education & Children’s Services, tomorrow evening to push for a meeting to be organised asap before the scheduled meeting of 7th May. Lucy is to send an email on behalf of the Community Council to the same effect.**
 - Lucy explained that the provision until the end of term will be 3 days a week.
 - A letter has been sent from the Parent Council to Donald MacLeod with the support of the South Harris Community Council and Harris Forum.
 - The requirement for the position to be a fluent Gaelic speaker was discussed. **Cllr Fulton to look for Council Standing Order relating to this and sent to Julian.**
 - A sub-group of the Harris Forum is being set up to look at this issue as it a widespread problem throughout the island.
5. Playpark –
 - Update from Cllr Finnegan by email said that it looks like the matter will now be taken back to Councillors to decide the amount to be allocated to the playparks. **Cllr Finnegan to check with Calum MacKenzie at CNES to see if any decisions have been made.**
 - Council meeting expected to take place in Uist next week. Up until now Leverburgh has been at the top of the list of priorities for playparks in islands, it’s unclear how this will be affected by the full Council meeting yet.
 - Idea of approaching private companies on the island for match funding towards construction of new playpark was discussed. It was agreed that is important to find out the amount to be awarded from the Council so that the amount of match funding required can be determined.
 - The idea of engaging nonparents within the community in fundraising was discussed. This could be through an advert, public meeting etc.
 - Suggestion of asking Council to remove equipment on the grounds of safety was discussed. **Lucy to check with Parent Council on this and get back to Cllr Fulton.**
 - **Lucy to ask Parent Council if there is a copy of minutes from the meeting of 5/3/2024 between Parent Council, Playpark Committee, Cllrs, and Officers.**
6. Rodel Toilets –
 - Historic Environment Scotland have replied to Donnie’s request for funding. They are currently going through a process of changing management structure and can’t fund toilets directly. However, Donnie is continuing to work with them to look at other solutions.

- Donnie is also working with Marion on funding and is looking at another possibility which could have news in the next 2 to 3 weeks.
 - Public Liability Insurance will be required, it's expected Community Council funds will be sufficient to cover this.
 - Toilets will remain closed at the moment until funding is in place.
7. Housing and Traffic –
- Nick Anderson was in touch with Donnie and Stephen to ask if the Community Council would take forward a letter and request to HHP, CNES and local Councillors requesting that the access to the new houses be moved to Pier Road from Ferry Road where it is in the existing plans. It was explained in the request that there is a minimum of 21 Ferry Road, and immediate area, residents who support this request.
 - The unanimous view of the Community Council is that the process has been through full planning and has been considered and approved, so it would not be appropriate to get involved. It was also felt that anything that could delay the building of the houses would be unacceptable to the community and would make it look foolish after the relentless campaign to get this project started over the last few years. **Stephen to write to Nick to explain position of the Community Council.**
8. Road Traffic Survey –
- Julian thanked Cllr Fulton for raising our request to John MacLeod at CNES. He suggested that a traffic survey could be done before and after the building of the houses. Cllr Fulton pointed out that Council is keen to wait until the 20mph national speed limit is introduced in Scotland **but will make request again.**
 - **Cllr Fulton to propose a joint meeting with the 3 Harris Community Councils to the Police Chief Inspector.**
 - The possibility of the 3 Harris Community Councils renting a speed radar and recruiting volunteers was discussed.
9. A.O.C.B –
- Cyber Attack Latest – Cllr Fulton explained that CNES have recovered some records from hard drives but data in the Cloud has not been recovered.
 - Place Standard – David MacDonald was in touch with Donnie about running a Place Standard session to brainstorm key objectives for inclusion in the next Harris Plan. Community Councils were offered the chance to host the sessions and to work in together as a project. The themes of Housing & Population and Arts, Culture, Heritage & Language were identified for hosting in Leverburgh. These themes are suggestions and are not set in stone. Full details were circulated by Donnie.