

South Harris Community Council Minutes 27/6/2023 in Leverburgh Free Church Hall

Present – Donnie MacDonald – Chair; Effie MacLeod – Vice-Chair; Marion Morrison – Treasurer; Stephen MacKinnon – Secretary; Caroline Chaffer; Lucy Duff; Patricia Martin

Apologies – John R MacLean; Jenny MacAulay; Cllr Fulton; Cllr Finnegan

1. Minutes of previous meeting – Proposed by Marion and seconded by Lucy
2. Matters Arising –
 - SSEN Resilience Fund – Agreed that SHCC will work in partnership with Leverhulme Community Hub on an application for a generator for the Hub so that the café area and showers can be a central resilience point during a power cut or other crisis. Deadline is 31st July – Stephen and Marion to lead and report back.
 - Hall – Hugh accepted offer of support from SHCC. Marion will send cheque.
 - Play Park – Parents currently voting on best way ahead including whether the project comes under the Hub with a sub-committee managing it. Marion to follow up with Parent Council about £500 cheque that was sent for Playpark.
 - Clean Up – Week went very well with school kids and community groups involved. Lucy to return skip key to Donnie.
3. Housing Update –
 - Planning permission for 12 houses has been granted. However, HHP's current position is still to build 6 in the first phase.
 - Donnie and Stephen met Alastair Allan MSP on Monday to update him on progress. He is in agreement that 12 houses should be built at same time. He is happy to help and will speak to Callum Iain MacIver and Iain Watson at CNES in the first instance.
 - An updated waiting list for Northton/Leverburgh was sent to Donnie before the meeting, it is currently 19 people. Donnie is waiting to hear back on how many have Leverburgh as their 2nd choice.
 - Sawan Morrison, HHP, expects that contract will go out to tender in the next three weeks, where costings for both 6 and 12 houses will be run in parallel.
 - Donnie, Caroline, Stephen to meet on Saturday to draft press release for inclusion in De Tha Dol as well as other media next week. This will focus on the latest situation and the continued push and need for all 12 houses to be built immediately.
 - It was agreed Leverburgh Village Hall should be the venue for a public meeting on housing with stakeholders present including: HHP, CNES, TIG, Councillors, HIE to explain the housing project and the various options available for taking it to the full 12 houses in the first phase. Due to holidays, it is likely to be late July/early August before this meeting can take place.
4. Bins –
 - Bin collection recently changed from fortnightly to every three weeks. The meeting heard of many reports of chaos and even health hazards that this is causing within the community, especially for commercial businesses such as restaurants and hotels. It is likely situation will get worse as peak summer season hits.
 - Suggested that calls are made to CNES Cleansing Department. Donnie will contact Environmental Health on behalf of SHCC.

5. Luskentyre Cemetery Parking –
 - The problem of visitors parking here and obstructing funerals and relatives trying to visit gravesides has been widely reported on social media and in the press, with a petition calling for action reaching over 2000 at the time of this meeting.
 - Everyone agreed that this is an unacceptable situation and that urgent action is required. Cllr Fulton is pulling together a meeting of stakeholders which SHCC is fully supportive of and will participate in.

6. HPMAs – Donnie received late word of a consultation taking place in Bayhead, Stornoway regarding this on Thursday. Donnie hopes to attend and will let Donald MacLennan know to spread the word to the fishermen.

7. A.O.C.B –
 - Road Safety – Issue of danger of corner at An Clachan was raised again as was the speed of cars coming through Leverburgh. It was agreed to invite the Roads Safety Officer and Police Scotland to a meeting solely about road safety soon.
 - Leverburgh Community Garden – Stephen met with Gordon Newman who is working to improve the garden. It is very overgrown but Gordon has already cut a significant amount of branches. CNES can uplift, SHCC will cover the fee.

Date of Next Meeting – TBC depending on Public Meeting