

South Harris Community Council Minutes 4/6/2024 in Leverhulme Community Hub

Present – Donnie MacDonald – Chair; Lucy Duff – Vice-Chair; Marion Morrison – Treasurer; Stephen MacKinnon – Secretary Bob Chaffer; Julian Saurin; Councillor Paul Finnegan

1. Apologies –Patricia Martin, Caroline Chaffer, Effie MacLeod
2. Minutes of last meeting 16/4/2024 were proposed by Lucy and seconded by Julian.
3. Matters Arising – None
4. Crown Estate –
 - Donnie gave a report on the recent Harris Forum meetings about a proposal to use £35k of the £70k Harris Crown Estate allocation to provide 50% continued funding for the Harris Forum Development Officer role. The other 50% it is hoped will come from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE). This would extend the post for a further two years.
 - Votes from Harris Forum member organisations were heavily in favour for the proposal. There was disappointment that comments made in the Surveys by member organisations were not considered.
 - The view of SHCC is that this proposal should make an application for Crown Estate funding just as the other member organisations have to.
 - **Stephen to send Harris Forum constitution round.**
 - SHCC to make application for funding towards Rodel Toilets including for a part-time cleaner, and cleaning and maintenance equipment and materials.
5. Rodel Toilets –
 - As mentioned above an application will be before Friday to the Crown Estate for funding assistance. Match funding is in place thanks to donations, and money to come from Harris Voluntary Service – in return SHCC take over process of applying for water rates exemption.
 - Marion has been looking after toilets so far this season on a voluntary basis. Petrol money has been offered as way of thanks.
 - Donations in the first month of this season have been £150.
6. Luskentyre/Seilebost Pollution –
 - High levels of E-Coli in the shellfish in this area has been brought to attention in the press by Grant Fulton.
 - No monitoring is done the water for swimming. SEPA and CNES Environmental Health have been unable to provide further information.
 - It was agreed SHCC must get full information before making public comment.
 - It is hoped a sub-group of Julian, Bob, and Grant will continue to investigate further.
7. Nursery Update –
 - Donnie, Lucy and Cllr Finnegan attended positive meeting with the Head of Education, Head of Early Years, Leverhulme Head Teacher, and members of the Parent Council 2 weeks ago. The posts of Play Leader and Qualified Key worker are being advertised.
 - If no one suitable is found, CNES will provide relief staff 3 days a week on a Teacher's salary as is currently the case. Although this is still below the 30 hour legal requirement.

- A third unqualified learn on the job was also proposed. **Lucy is working on a poster relating to this.** The person would have the opportunity to spears Gaelic on the job.
 - Leverburgh and Tarbert to meet together on joint issues and look at any pan Harris solutions that can be found within the next few weeks.
8. Play Park –
- Lucy thanked Cllr Finnegan for his contributions on behalf of the community relating to the Play Park.
 - Donnie, Lucy, Playpark Steering Group, and Cllr Finnegan, met with Ian Gordie Smith, Calum MacKenzie, and Alan MacDonald recently to discuss.
 - Position is no further forward with Leverburgh Play Park now being closed for over a year.
 - Position of Leverburgh being first on list of Play parks requiring assistance on the islands may have to go back to council members to vote on again. Cllr Finnegan is against this and thinks decision originally made by officers should stand.
 - Leverburgh is only non-working play park on the list.
 - Public Meeting being held on 11th June to update community of progress.
 - Match funding can't be pursued until amount coming from the CNES is clarified.
9. Housing –
- Hope is that contractors will be on site in July.
 - Cllr Finnegan to speak to HHP re community benefit from building contractor.
 - Name of housing development has been announced in media.
10. A.O.C.B –
- Northton Traffic and Bus Turning –
 - Bus is not able to take school kids down the village at times due to the bus turning area being blocked by cars. This is a long standing issue that has never been resolved despite there being signage in place.
 - Signage at the cattlegrid at the beginning of the village advising of minimal parking at the end of the village was suggested.
 - Arranging a meeting with Murdo MacRitchie, CNES was discussed.
 - The poor road surface in Northton was also discussed.

Date of Next Meeting – 6th August 2024