

# South Harris Community Council Meeting 14/11/2023

Present – Donnie MacDonald – Chair; Lucy Duff – Vice-Chair; Marion Morrison – Treasurer; Stephen MacKinnon – Secretary; Caroline Chaffer – SHCC; Patricia Martin – SHCC; Julian Saurin – SHCC; Bob Chaffer – SHCC (via phone); Cllr Paul Finnegan

Apologies – Cllr Grant Fulton

1. Minutes of last meeting 26/9/2023 – Proposed by Marion and seconded by Donnie.
2. Matters Arising –
  - Leverburgh Playpark – Money ringfenced for development within CNES and playpark will not be sold at the moment. Donnie has been assured by Harris Forum Development Officer that Leverburgh is top priority ahead of the other two Harris playpark projects. There is a meeting due to happen between CNES officers, legal team, and Parent Council. Lucy will be attending but Donnie is also happy to come along if helpful. Cllr Finnegan believes design team has been the delay due to the backlog of projects and has asked CNES for an updated timeline of when development could happen.
  - Luskentyre Cemetery – CNES lining several car parking spots to be reserved for cemetery users. They are working with the campaign group on the wording of signage. No camping is allowed in any cemetery by CNES. **Cllr Finnegan to check if this by-law can be enforced by police.** Evidence such as photos and car registration numbers can be collected by wardens and officers.
  - Community Skips – Donnie has put up laminated signs in Clachan and at Pier explaining what can and cannot be put in skip.
3. Leverburgh Housing –
  - Donnie spoke to John MacIver of HHP for an update. HHP are still negotiating with potential contractors. Due to commercial sensitivity, there is little more information. He hopes to be in a position to take a recommendation to the HHP Board in the next two weeks.
  - If there is a shortfall the next step would be HHP and CNES going back to the Scottish Government to ask for more funding.
4. Traffic –
  - The issues of cars, buses, and lorries going well over 30mph and the dangers of the corner at Dunmore Crescent and the corner at the Clachan were discussed.
  - John MacLeod from CNES replied to Grant's email after last meeting that CNES have plans to put some signage up either side of Clachan corner but will only put-up signage if Police approve. He hopes to meet Police shortly.
  - Julian to look at research on road safety measures to find best solutions and will report back at next meeting.

5. Rodel Toilets – Agreed that these will be closed for the Winter. Donnie has been in touch with Historic Scotland about potential grant funding to usage of toilets by many visitors to St Clements Church. Further funding could be sought from Challenge Fund and Crown Estate.
6. Community Garden –
  - Gordon Newman continues to do excellent work in the garden. He has reported that the vehicle ramp next to it is causing issues. There is oil from cars going into the water as the container which oil is meant to go into is either not being used or is not being uplifted. **Marion to find out who is responsible for emptying the container.**
  - Gordon has requested a petrol strimmer, but SHCC is not currently in a position to purchase one. Challenge Fund and Crown Estate could be applied to, as well as any other grants and trusts that community councils are eligible for.
7. Solar Powered Street Lighting – Bob put forward proposal to try to save CNES money. SHCC should put forward proposal to trial solar lighting systems in rural areas. **Bob to write report on types of lighting and systems and forward to Cllr Finnegan and Cllr Fulton who can then pass it on to CNES.**
8. A.O.C.B –
  - Leverburgh Nursery – No staff member has been successfully recruited to replace the full-time position which was vacated in September despite being advertised twice. Each Friday parents are told what the provision with temporary staff is to be for the following week with no guarantees in place. Position has only been advertised for Gaelic speakers despite the Parent Council requesting that this be changed. Parents also feel let down by lack of communication from CNES. Cllr Finnegan explained that this is due to policy put in place by Councillors as a standing order of Gaelic first. **Donnie to speak to Kenny MacLeod, Chair of Parent Council before a letter goes from SHCC to CNES.**

Date of next meeting 9<sup>th</sup> January 7.30pm in Leverburgh Free Church Hall.

Calendar of Meeting Dates: 9<sup>th</sup> January; 5<sup>th</sup> March; 7<sup>th</sup> May; 2<sup>nd</sup> July; 3<sup>rd</sup> September; 5<sup>th</sup> November