

SANDWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2024
WITHIN THE UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM, SANDWICK HALL

Sederunt: Mike Smith, Rosemary MacRitchie, Donald MacDonald
Bob Walker(Chair)

Councillors: Francis Murray,

Apologies: Nicola MacSween, Anna MacFarlane, Cllrs Angus McCormack, Rae MacKenzie, (belated apologies from Cllr George Murray)

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th November 2023 were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Rosemary MacRitchie and seconded by Mike Smith.

Matters Arising:

Posthumous Award WW2: Cllr McCormack was unable to attend this meeting due to a prior engagement. This item to be carried forward to next meeting.

Retain on Agenda

Association of Community Councils: Nothing further to report.

Retain on Agenda

Street & Landscape Furniture: Article now complete and article in Point and Sandwick Website

Delete from Agenda

GDPR: Presently on hold at CNES.

Retain on Agenda

Local Electricity Bill: Still going through Parliament.

Retain on Agenda

Ferry Services: This is an ongoing issue. Continual amendments to timetables and breakdowns is not acceptable to the Western Isles Communities. Some Island communities are now without ferries for days. Bob to try and get the Association of Community Councils restart and raise this with the Scottish Government.

Retain on Agenda

Point and Sandwick Trail: Nicola could not attend the meeting but sent an update to Bob share with the meeting:- Steinish Stage 2 is now underway & will include a minor repair to works already completed. Funding submissions are currently being prepared for the following stages:-

Melbost Aignish

Aird/Sheshader link with Aird Community Centre

Sheshader to Black Sandie

P&ST have approved match funding for these projects with the exception of Black Sandie: decision deferred to P&ST March 24 board meeting.

Cllr McCormack was seeking support for access to Lower Sandwick Beach for those who are not to steady on their feet, to allow them to walk the beach proper.

The point chosen is where a natural break in the rock armour creates a gap. The gap will be the access point to the beach. From it a gently sloping path with a handrail will lead to the present shore path. Behind this sloping path will be placed new rock armour to strengthen the location. Cllr McCormack requests that Sandwick Community Council give consideration to donate the sum of £2000.00 to this project. All present agreed to this request and Bob is to liaise with Anna for the sum to be paid to Mossend Residents Association, who are overseeing the project.

Retain on Agenda

Sandwick Hub: No feedback on this to date.

Retain on Agenda

Local Place Plan: Update received that Council Officers will be conducting consultations with Community Councils into this matter. Date for consultation with Sandwick Community Council to be advised.

Retain on Agenda

Project List:

- Drapes for Main Hall Bob stated that he has heard nothing further from the Hall Committee.
- WiFi now live in Hall need to speak to Hall committee re usage.

Retain on Agenda

Planning Objection Steinish: The planning application for the church was rejected by the Planning Committee of CnES.

Delete from Agenda

Finance: Anna MacFarlane, Treasurer was unable to attend the meeting. Update will be given at the next meeting

Retain on Agenda

Development Worker: Cllr Francis Murray informed the meeting that Kirsten had been appointed as the Community Worker for Stornoway South and Sandwick Community Council areas. She would be working from Newton Community Centre and would be taking up the post on Monday 12th February 2024. Bob asked that Kirsten be approached and asked if she would take on the role of Clerk to Sandwick Community Council. Cllr Murray to speak with Kirsten on this subject at their meeting on Monday.

Retain on Agenda

Percival Square Stornoway: This was in relation to the Public Toilets and all present thought that the opening of these toilets should be a priority. Cllr Murray advised the meeting that the toilets would be open in the not to distant future and hopefully by the summer.

Retain on Agends

CnES Waste Disposal/Recycling: Cllr George Murray will advise the next meeting.

Retain on Agenda

Braighe: Dog Fouling: Cllr George Murray to report back regarding bins at Melbost end of beach.

Cllr Angus McCormack to arrange a bin for Lower Sandwick.

Retain on Agenda

SSE Interconnector Building: Following discussions it was decided to await the planning application be submitted to the Planning Dept. by SSEN before Sandwick Community Council could respond.

Retain on Agenda

AOCB

Traffic Management Issues/Driver Behaviour: Sandwick East Street.

Nicola raised this matter with Bob as she was unable to attend the meeting. First, it is good to see priority given to these issues across the islands and updates on the measures being taken by Police Scotland locally, especially given very limited resources.

The following is an excerpt from an E Mail with Bob on 20th November 2023:

Thank you for your phone call last Thursday and all it contained.

In particular that Sandwick Community Council has agreed to include issues of road traffic incidents and driver behaviour in this area in the January 2024 meeting agenda.

To you also for agreeing to take this forward with Police Scotland at local level.

Anecdotal comments from commercial and delivery drivers have indicated that East Street, Sandwick (A866) and Newmarket (A857) can be the most hazardous areas to work.

Perhaps, the broader issues could be a regular Sandwick Community Council item as well as being referred to the CnES, Community Safety Committee.

This to be fully discussed at the next meeting.

Retain on Agenda

Donation to Sandwick Hall: Bob informed the meeting that to date we have not received a bill from Sandwick Hall for over the past year for the use of the meeting room. Bob suggested that we make a donation of £200.00 to them for the use of the meeting room. All present agreed to this request. Bob to arrange with Anna for payment.

Retain on Agenda

Date of Next Meeting: 7.30pm on Monday 11th March 2024

There being no further business the Chairperson closed the meeting and wished everyone present a safe journey home.