

SANDWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY 18th February 2025

**WITHIN THE UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM, SANDWICK
HALL**

Sederunt: - Bob Walker, Chairperson, Anna MacFarlane, Treasurer, Rosemary MacRitchie, Joanne O'Donnell

Councillors: - Cllr. George Murray

Apologies: - Rhoda MacKenzie, Nicola MacSween, Anna MacFarlane, Donald MacDonald, Cllr. Rae MacKenzie, Cllr Angus McCormack, Cllr George Murray. Kirsten MacInnes.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: - The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14th January 2025 which had been circulated prior to the meeting, were adopted as a true record. Proposed by Rosemary MacRitchie, seconded by Joanne O'Donnell

Ferry Services: - Still no response to our letter but apparently things are moving but it is unsure what.

Point & Sandwick Trail: - Bob read out the message he had found after the meeting on 14th January 2024. Nicola stated that Point & Sandwick Trail planned to meet with funders, Paths for All shortly and are keen to outline possibilities to extend the Steinish route to take in the Melbost West/MacKenzie Park areas. Route scoping is at an early stage and planning permissions likely required depending. Funding sources are under pressure in this financial climate, so the thinking is to open discussion with funders now. Comment from SCC would be welcome in the discussion at this stage if agreed.

It was agreed to await to speak to Nicola at our next meeting.

Retain on Agenda

Sandwick Hub: The Committee are pushing ahead with this as a matter of urgency, and we will be updated at our next meeting.

Retain on Agenda

Community Council Finance: - Anna advised the meeting that SCC had been successful in receiving a grant of £5000.00 from Point & Sandwick Trust. Ann stated that the Clerk had received the £500.00 honorarium tonight. Bob also requested that we give a donation of £200.00 to SHARE for use of the Meeting Room. This was agreed by all present.

Retain on Agenda

Local Place Plan: No further progress made at this time

Retain on Agenda

Spiorad na Mara: - Nothing further to report currently.

Retain on Agenda

Lewis Hub 400Kv Substation: - This item was taken first and Bob welcomed Kevin Morrison, Owen Dome and Mairi Rigby from SSEN to the meeting. Kevin gave an update on the proposed Interconnector building at Arnish. Following on from this update a question-and-answer session took place and at the end it was felt by all present that SSEN were not being fully transparent on answering the questions put to them.

Retain on Agenda

Melbost West – Housing Development: - Bob advised the meeting that letters had been delivered to HHP and Stornoway Trust. The letter to HHP was for the consultation process. The letter to Stornoway Trust was for them to answer why the very good arable land had been sold for housing when this type of land was very scarce on the Island. To date there has been no response from Stornoway Trust. Bob to write to John Cunningham, Chief Planning Officer and invite him to our next Meeting to discuss both this planning application and SSEN's proposal for Arnish.

Retain on Agenda

Flooding Mossend: - Bob informed the meeting that the Mossend Road from Sandwick Road to Constable Road is continually flooding. He stated that it is progressively getting worse and that the floodwater is now covering both carriageways during heavy rain. Local Cllrs. to arrange meeting with Bob and the Roads Department regarding this issue.

Grant Application: - Bob advised the meeting that he had to make a very quick application to Point and Sandwick Trust for a Grant. Bob advised the meeting that he had made a grant application for £5000.00, and this application was successful.

Delete from Agenda

AOCB: - None

Date of Next Meeting – 18th March 2025