

SANDWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY 28TH MAY 2024

WITHIN THE UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM, SANDWICK HALL

Sederunt: - Bob Walker, Chairperson, Anna MacFarlane, Treasurer, Rosemary MacRitchie.

Councillors: - Angus McCormack, George Murray

Apologies: - Nicola MacSween, Cllr. Rae MacKenzie, Cllr. Francis Murray

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:- The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18th March 2024, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, were adopted as a true record. Proposed by Rosemary MacRitchie, seconded by Bob Walker.

MATTERS ARISING:-

Posthumous Award: - Cllr McCormack advised the meeting that a first impression had been done. Bob requested that until this is completed it should be removed from the agenda. All agreed to this request although Cllr. MacCormack will continue to update the meeting on this without it being minuted.

Delete from Agenda Meantime

Ferry Services: - The meeting was advised that the Mezzanine Deck on the Loch Seaforth would not be repaired until the ship went into dry dock for its annual overhaul in October. This would reduce the capacity of transporting cars by 13 per crossing per day. Total 52 cars per day not able to use the ferry during the busiest time of the year.

A full and frank discussion took place regarding the Passenger access ramp. Cllr McCormack advised the meeting that the Stornoway Port Authority is having problems with the builders of this ramp. A full discussion took place regarding the present access via the car deck, and it was deemed that this could be a health and safety issue especially when carry babies, heavy suitcases whilst negotiating steep staircase when entering or leaving the Ferry. It was suggested that in the meantime a vehicle should be

made available to have luggage etc taken onto the ferry. This would free up passengers to negotiate the access to the main seating area without the possibility of getting injured. Bob to write to the Stornoway Port Authority and Caledonian MacBrayne regarding the safety concerns being expressed.

Retain on Agenda

Point & Sandwick Trail: - Cllr McCormack stated that the pathway is nearly complete but has been looking for £2000.00 to complete the works at Sandwick. The monies would be used put galvanised handrails etc. at the steps. Bob proposed that the Community Council should donate £2000.00 to the Mossend Residents Association to assist with the completion of this works. This motion was seconded by both Anna and Rosemary. Bob to give the cheque to Ken Kennedy on his way home from the meeting.

As Nicola was unable to attend the meeting, she forwarded the following: -

Steinish Footpath 2nd stage is progressing slowly. Fencing is presently being erected. P&STrail: Aird/Sheshader & Black Sandie is the committee's current priority. Work has started on the route that will restore old croft access routes as well as the old school path from Sheshader to Aird community hub. A subsequent route will enable easier access to Black Sandie headland. Works are progressing efficiently given the driest conditions.

Once completed, it will be possible to walk a circular route taking in the already completed route from Shuilishader to Flesherin and, with care, from Sheshader to Bayble. The Braighe route is currently awaiting the next PAB meeting; scheduled for June '24

E-bikes: a very successful "try out" session was held at the Beacon Café, Aird. Undoubtedly down to the café footfall and, the weather.

The P&S Trail Ranger set up a similar session at Steinish Mart. This had no accompanying event. Aim is to regroup with a community event alongside at the same venue. The Community Garden may be a possibility. Any suggestions, welcome.

An e-cargo bike is now on loan to Sandwick Bay Candles.

Retain on Agenda

Sandwick Hub: - Sandwick Hub together with CNES official visited the site along with representatives of EDF. EDF were looking at the site for possible accommodation for their work force for the Inter Connector Electricity supply coming to the Island and the building of a large Sub-Station for the increased number of wind turbines. The Steinish Community are opposed to this as it is possibly not starting for another further 5 years. Sandwick Hub is continuing to progress with the plans for creating the Hub for the benefit of the local area.

Retain on Agenda

Community Council Finance: - The Treasurer advised the meeting that following the issue of the cheque for £2000.00 to Mossend Residents Association which was passed

earlier in the meeting the account now presently stands at £8346.40p As a Council we have to keep in mind that £5000.00 has been promised to Cllr. McCormack for the memorial plaque present ongoing currently.

Retain on Agenda

Percival Square: - Percival Square toilets are now open.

Delete from Agenda

CnES Waste Disposal and Recycling: - Cllr Murray advised the meeting that trailers and vans will have to be booked in at the recycling site at Creed Park. This is to prevent unlawful use.

Delete on Agenda

Traffic Management:- This is to be monitored by CnES and the Police.

Delete from Agenda

AOCB

Honorarium:- The Treasure Anna MacFarlane said that as Bob is going to carryout the role as Clerk to the Community Council for the foreseeable future she proposed that he be given the honorarium of £500.00 per year this proposal was seconded by Roemary MacRitchie. All present agreed to this.

Retain from Agenda

Prescription Changes: - Rosemary MacRitchie advised the meeting that as from 6th June 2024 Broadbay Medical Practice will no longer have a telephone system for patients to order repeat prescriptions. The only options were for people to hand in the second page to the practice or into a Chemist, ticking the items required. Following a full discussion, it was viewed by all present that this was a backward step. Bob was asked to write to Broadbay Medical Practice regarding the concerns of residents in the Community Council area, especially the elderly and infirm who would have to rely on others to deliver their prescriptions.

Retain on Agenda

