

DRAFT

**Sunart Community Council  
Meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019 (7:30pm)  
Village Hall, Strontian**

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone. **Apologies** received from T Coldwell

**Attending:** D Anderson (Chair), C Hunter (Vice Chair), J Hilder (Treasurer), T Coldwell, L Wilson, J Jones (Secretary) and PC K Swift, D Mann

**2. Minutes of meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018:** Proposed C Hunter, seconded L Wilson.

**Amendments:** None

**3. Matters arising from the previous minutes**

**Police Matters:** As a result of police intelligence, people are asked to keep any material, scrap or equipment secure. There have been reports about bogus workmen, too. Animal Abuse: there have been two cats attacked, which is raising concerns for the Police. Also, there have been incidents of sheep worrying by dogs, one of which is very serious. People are asked to keep their dogs under control.

If anyone has any information or wishes to report concerns or incidents then please ring 101, or the local telephone number is 01967 402022.

**Heritage:** On going. Also, item 7b)

**Monument Park:** On going. **Action** Secretary has written to Mr Wright for an update.

**Dail Mhor House:** There was a meeting of the Community Councils Working Group on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Currently there are three respite care beds operating. Staff are on a 2-year fixed term contract, which is the same as the project worker funding. Early on most clients were from the Fort William side, however, indications are that as time has progressed there should be more clients from the peninsulas. C Hunter stated she had not received sight of the project worker update; a copy will be re-sent. J Matheson has replied to D Parks' email, and introduced the new project worker, Lara Van de Peer. She also informed Mr Parks of the Community Councils Working Group's aim is to hold a public meeting with a senior member of NHS management in attendance. It was also explained to Mr Parks that Dail Mhor still doesn't have adequate IT and wifi facilities operating which is hindering the NHS manager and project worker. The Community Council Working Group, earlier today, have been informed that approval has been given for NHS IT to be installed at Dail Mhor. A public meeting is being planned for late March (date tbc.)

**Longrigg Woodland:** Consultants are continuing with the feasibility and viability study. As previously stated, the "drop in" on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December was attended by 41 people who posted information, views and ideas. The next stage will be a meeting and presentation by the consultants on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019 in the Sunart Centre. The purpose is to provide early information to the Sunart Community Company Board, the Community Council and the full Longrigg Working Group. Should anyone wish further information then please contact Izzy Baker; details are on the Sunart Community Company Website.

**Visitor Information Centre:** A meeting was held on 9<sup>th</sup> January with the craft people who are prospective clients, to discuss various matters with regard leasing space, costs, and offering info to visitors. A Working Group is being established and the opening date is (hopefully) going to be 21<sup>st</sup> March. Volunteers are being sought to help with cleaning, painting and DIY and also volunteers who might like to help on a rota basis to staff the shop and provide information to visitors. Anyone interested should contact Izzy@sunartcommunitycompany.co.uk

**SCC Website:** Dean Mann attended and gave a short presentation about how the website could be developed using a WordPress template and a layout similar to that of the community company, thereby saving development time and cost. J Hilder pointed out that the community company website is very straightforward and easy to maintain and post new information. L Wilson has offered to assist with maintaining the Website and Facebook page and will be the Community Council person nominated to run the website. Dean indicated that the potential cost would be in the region of £200 for set up costs in the first year with an annual cost of approximately £70 p.a. thereafter (exc VAT). Dean is providing for his time or labour as a contribution to the community. The Community Council thanked Dean, his work and efforts are greatly appreciated.

**Correspondence:**

- Email re gritting of residential roads. C Hunter contacted the Highland Council; the situation hasn't changed locally and there are bins on the hill to Polloch.

**AoB:**

- Path to the Burial Ground (Drimnatorran) – the Highland Council Amenities Officer, Lochaber, has visited and emailed the Secretary. On the day of his visit the bridge and path were clear, although he appreciated that the weather had been dry, therefore he will monitor the situation over the next few weeks and keep us posted. Other community councillors also observed that the bridge was being kept clear which is welcome.
- Housing – School Road. – C Hunter visited the house on the open day, as had the Secretary, and both provided information and their impressions. The property seems warm and dry, and reported that the HSCHT say there should not be problems provided that the air-source heating is left switched on at 18-19 degrees and the fans are left running. This is the optimum setting for heating and lowest running costs. If the settings are continuously changed and the system switched off and on then problems will be experienced. T Coldwell said that there were problems with the buildings where more than one or two people were in occupancy. He also thought that 18-19 degrees falls below the required level where there are young children. Following a discussion it was agreed the Secretary write to the HSCHT. **Carried forward**
- War Memorial – Secretary: A note to be placed in the February De tha dol? seeking contractors to construct a new handrail

4. **Planning Matters** - One item: Ref 18/05772/FUL Land 35m SW of Raasay, Seaview Grazings, Strontian. Noted, this application has been agreed previously,

**5. Correspondence**

- D Parks replied to J Matheson on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019 with regard to NHS commitment to future of the Provision of Care in the Peninsulas. Item above

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- Email J McIntyre re Deer numbers in the village – It is noted that the Forestry Commission have **already** repaired the deer fence and gate on the Faerie Walk has recently been replaced. J Hilder understands that Kenneth Knott, Assistant Delivery Manager, West Region, FCS will be looking into deer control issues in the coming weeks and will report back.
- Ariundle woods re-opening - J Hilder has received a call from the Forestry Commission Scotland, and his update is: “The main reason why the paths are shut even though the tree harvesting has finished is the repair of the footpaths damaged by the machinery and the resurfacing of the main track. I have been assured that the road contractors appointed to make these repairs should be finished by the end of next week. So too the removal of the remaining 200 tonnes of stacked timber which is up the track on the left as you cross the cattle grid. So the short answer is one more week to go! Finally there are a couple of bridges on the east side of the river (when walking the Faerie trail from the village), which remain unsuitable for horses. These have now been surveyed, and remain closed to horses and FCS are looking to repair them (or create fords nearby) but there is no timescale yet for these.”
- Email reply from David Lamont re Burial Ground access route – see item above.
- Email re previously forwarded with regards: Local Energy Scotland re Consultation on community benefit funds from renewable energy projects v: A Thomson. This item was included in Correspondence last bullet point, in last month’s minutes. However, it was clarified and explained that local estates/ landowners have been approached by the Treasurer and for instance Conaglen have provided money towards the Public Entertainment Licence, and money had also been given by others for the Hydro scheme, new Primary School, etc. but these donations are a matter for the receiving groups and not necessarily publicly reported to the community council. The Community Council understands that where support for something specific is wanted in the community then the “applicant” should contact the estates direct. Currently the Government does not and cannot enforce landowners to pay community benefit payments, and recognises that a number do give support to communities voluntarily. Further, some communities receive community benefit money but as there is often no acknowledgement some landowners prefer to give money direct to specific scheme or projects rather than via a community council. The Government Guidelines recommend a “blended” approach. The Government consultation is on going and a response will be sent. For anyone wishing to contribute to the Government Consultation this is available at: <https://consult.gov.scot/energy-and-climate-change-directorate/onshore-renewable-energy-developments/>

## 6. Treasurer's Report

Deposit Account is £10,555.07  
Current Account is £3,608.40

Treasurer has just received another donation towards the cost of the annual fireworks and on behalf of the Community Council wishes to thank everyone who sponsored the fireworks and those who gave donations. The Treasurer also explained that the money from the adverts in the noticeboard goes towards the cost of the fireworks.

The charge for an advert in the noticeboard is £1p.w. However, it has been noticed that often only an initial payment is made, yet an advert stays in the noticeboard for

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many weeks. After a brief discussion the suggestion is that this is reviewed as any and all income from the noticeboard goes the community to help pay for the fireworks

### **7. Any other Business (AoB)**

- a. The Resilience Plan documentation has been passed to the Community Council. After a discussion it was agreed that C Hunter will chair a meeting with the other Community Councillors on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 4pm. The purpose is to review the plan and what needs to be done to update it. After this a further meeting will be arranged to update the plan with the various parties involved e.g. police, emergency services, named parties, etc.
  - b. The grant from the Sunart Community Benefit Fund of £2,500 towards the cataloguing the Sunart Archive collected by the late George Fox, which was being held in the Community Company account, is being transferred to the Community Council account. An interim payment has been made to the conservators for work and materials to date. Any further work / assistance with the archive will therefore be managed by the Community Council at the request of Georges family.
  - c. The Community Councillors wish to express thanks to Jamie Tait and John Troup for putting up the Christmas Lights on the tree by the police station, to Laura and Richard for donating and installing the Christmas tree in the Village Hall, and to the Fire Crew who assisted with the Christmas light in the Village Hall.
  - d. The Community Company Board, Common Benefit Fund Panel and SCR Board will meet early April and review progress and how things are working and the Community Council are also invited to attend. This 3-year review was in the original proposals for the Fund to see how things are going and to consider any changes or improvements. Current indications are that for every £1 in grant from the Common Benefit Fund releases, or attracts a further, additional £2 from other sources.
  - e. Scottish Water is selling off the old collection tanks and another small plot situated on the Anaheilt Common Grazings. The crofters have approached the Scottish Government about buying the plots as part of the grazings but this the Government declined as apparently it was too costly to fill them in, etc. It appears that only Scottish Water has access to the locations, which greatly limits the future use and ownership. The crofters approached the Community Company in the matter. As the original notification was to the Community Council, the Community Company ask if the secretary can write to Scottish Water for details of the burdens and a further extension, to enable the situation to be resolved.
  - f. J Hilder as Community Council representative on the Community Company brought an issue raised at the Community Company Board on 9<sup>th</sup> January. The Primary School Transition Project meeting minutes state that the Sunart Community Company "may possibly consider taking on these assets e.g. future housing" of the old Primary School building. The inference and rumour being that the Community Company as seeking to acquire the buildings, demolish them, and build houses. The Community Company wish to state to the Community Council that there has been no such discussion and there is no intention to purchase these buildings.
8. **Date of next meeting:** 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019, 7:30pm in the Village Hall, Strontian. The Chair extended her apologies,