

FINAL
Sunart Community Council
Meeting held on 12th April 18 (7:30pm)

Present: C Hunter (Chair), J Hilder (Treasurer), J Jones (Secretary), Cllr A Baxter, PC A Campbell and David Kirkham, David John Cameron

1. **Apologies:** T Dobson, D Anderson, T Coldwell,

The Chair welcomed everybody and thanked everyone for attending.

2. **Minutes of meeting held 8th March 2018** Proposed by J Hilder and seconded by C Hunter

Amendments: None

3. **Matters arising from previous Minutes**

Police Matters: There has been a theft of money from the Fire Station whilst the appliance was attending an emergency. The money is that which had been raised for charity and amounted to about £200. If anyone has any information then please contact one of the local police officers. The police would like to thank the various fire crews i.e. Strontian, Lochaline and Fort William as there were 10 call outs and one of which was a very serious house where two houses were destroyed.

Heritage Fund: Anchor is on-going. The Sunart Archives collection £3000 has been raised and the conservators will work with the family catalogue and pack the items which can then be stored. It is anticipated a Lottery Fund bid will be made to digitise the archive and books go to the library for scholars' research access.

Monument Park water supply Previous action point carried forward from the last meeting: The community council agreed the secretary should pursue the Stage 2 Council complaints procedure.
Action Point: secretary

Dail Mhor Closure CH attended the NHS Highland Board Meeting on the 27th March 2018. Joanna MacDonald presented the model of care being delivered on Jura, and suggests people would have no problem with this model. A quote made was "people stay well in their own communities". The board discussed the paper however a number of board members expressed their concern that no decision would be taken until the strategy report had been agreed. The chair expressed the opinion their purpose was to agree broad strategy on detail. Some board members argued that provision of Dail Mhor should not be closed without consultation with the communities involved and that alternative provision having first be put in place. Board members argued forcibly that the report did not take into consideration the rural highland areas and that if the principles set down were applied then every care home with less than 50 beds would be closed. As 50 is the minimum number of residents needed to enable the amount of money available under the National Care Home Contract to be sufficient to pay for their care. At a later point it was stated that there were no longer enough staff to re-open Dail Mhor. However, David Park did agree to a meeting as soon as possible to find a way forward. Joanne Matheson has been chasing this up to arrange a date for a meeting. The authors of the strategy paper have been sent back to consider rural communities. There was a meeting on the 11/4/18 at the Sunart Community Centre to explore the reopening of Dail Mhor for day care although there is still a struggle to evidence day care need. The GP asked why respite care couldn't be provided as there a clear need and the evidence already exists. So rather than a day centre the suggestion is for a 7 days a week respite and flexible bed provision. All the GPs will prepare a paper for the case of a respite and flexible bed unit as a first step.

Councillor Baxter has spoken with Alan McGwyer who is involved with "fit" homes and modularised units.

FINAL

The Community Council wish to thank CH and the others who attended the NHS Highland board meeting in Inverness

Community Woodland on-going

New Primary School: The lease with the HC has been signed.

Visitor Information Centre (VIC): VisitScotland have agreed to allow SMAATA to display notices. The community right to buy application is being prepared and the petition of local resident voters has been collected. The application will be submitted tomorrow 13/4/18. This will be a standing item.

Shellfish site: The planning application has been approved.

Website: This is nearly ready and the council members still need to decide whether to provide on going support. Item carried forward to the next meeting.

Village Clean Up: This was on the 25/3/18 and there was a very good attendance, so thanks to everyone who attended to help with this.

Road and Ditch clearance: Done

Men's Shed: This is about to start and will meet on Monday and Wednesday mornings at 10am.

4. **Planning Matters** – 18/01023/TNPO - secretary submitted comments made to Community Council on the HC Planning portal

5. Correspondence

1. SSE Community Resilience Fund - take information to Claudia
2. Highland Council - Fassfern Mussels application - noted
3. Bowman - Waste collection invoice for the bins on the green - paid by treasurer
4. D Gibb - Strontian Primary Transition Project - next meeting 16/4/18 CH will attend on behalf of JJ.
5. Highland Council - renewal of Poling locations in Highland - noted
6. NHS Elaine Meade copy of reply to MSPs noted
7. T Dobson Email to A Baxter re Drimnatorran path to the burial ground - Noted and JH in the first instance, will approach the owners of Drimnatorran Farm
8. Anna Evans, Indigo House Group, banking survey - JH has completed the survey and placed information on the Facebook page

6. **Treasurer's Report** - The current account balance of £1,029.52 after the short-term loan of £3,500 to the New Primary School Building. However, as the lease has been signed this money will be returned. The deposit account stands at £10,545.23. The treasurer informed Councillor Baxter that we are awaiting moneys from the hydro schemes that comes via HC but is delayed as some community councils have not completed their returns, this is delaying payment and we feel it is unfair.

7. Any Other Business

David Kirkham [DK] and David John Cameron attended from local company, SUNARTtelecom. DK advised members of the likely performance of superfast broadband from the 'green cabinets' - speeds are expected to be perhaps 70Mb/s immediately by the cabinet but diminishing to 25Mb/s at 1.25km and perhaps 10Mb/s at 2.5Km - by length of cable - all assuming that the copper is in 'as-new' condition. Customers have to pay the same price, irrespective of this variation. He offered to make enquiries as to whether there was any chance of a further cabinet being installed in this round of funding, given the reported underspend on the UK's DSSB project.

FINAL

DK explained that whilst SUNARTtelecom had now evaluated how to deliver a superfast wireless service to every property in Strontian, the Scottish Government's R100 programme is currently out to tender (with Openreach expected to win it later this year) and it is supposed to deliver further significant public money which may finance additional cabinets in Strontian anyway. There should be further news on this early next year after which the number of properties with no green cabinet connection in Strontian could be much better assessed.

DK advised that in May, SUNARTtelecom, in conjunction with Ofcom-regulated SCOTNET, will launch a new locally based service providing all the usual telephone and broadband (including 'green cabinet') services to the peninsula. Whilst this is, at the moment a completely private venture, all profits from this launch will be used to finance wireless broadband in the wider area with the first roll-out planned for Kilchoan & Branault. Prices are to be targeted to be cheaper than BT with a call centre in Inverness, not India.

The chair suggested that this information be passed to the community company.

Show Ground Gates: These are currently padlocked. The Ambulance Service have expressed concern as the show field is the helipad for the emergency service helicopter and whilst keys might be available at various locations this is not acceptable as 24-hour access is required. A letter has been drafted and will be sent to the Agricultural Show Committee. Previously, some time ago, the community council was informed that this is council property and the gates must not be locked. The police were present and also expressed concern. **Action:** Secretary to send the letter.

Gravestones with tape around as they are unsafe. HC have been approached and a reply is awaited. We are told that the procedure is that the council will contact the relatives to ask them to fix the gravestone, or offer to do the work for which there is a charge. If there is no response the final solution is that the gravestones will be laid flat on the ground.

An update from the community company: the path to Ardnastang beach is open and thanks go to Murdo Campbell who completed the work for free; the Longrigg burn path is also completed; and three new visitor moorings have just been put in just off the jetty.

The next meeting: Thursday 10th May 2018, at 7:30 pm at the Village Hall