

**Minutes of Sunart Community Council**  
**Meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019 (7:30pm), Village Hall, Strontian**

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone. **Apologies** PC K Swift, F Christian

**Attending:** D Anderson (Chair), Cllr A Baxter, J Hilder (Treasurer), J Jones (secretary), D Mann, E Sneddon-Hughes and one member of the public

**2. Minutes of meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019:** Proposed D Anderson Seconded J Hilder  
**Amendments:** None

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

**Police Matters:** PC Swift had reported there were no matters to raise at this meeting.

**Heritage:** *Free Church Anchor* – On going. There will be a meeting organised in February 2020.

**Monument Park Drinking Water Supply:** On going, secretary is asked to write again to Mr Wright to see an update on the progress and current position. **Action** Secretary

**Dail Mhor House:**

There was a meeting with Lara Van de Peer, J Hilder and Jenni Hodgson (on behalf of the Community Council Working Group) and representatives from NHS Highland on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019. J Hilder had an enquiry from a member of the public with regard a commitment by Highland Council (HC) to the former Primary School Building. He explained there is a Community Councils' Steering Group (with representatives from the 5 Community Councils) and they are progressing plans to formally constitute a registered charity, (known as a SCIO) "URUM", and declare an "expression of interest" in primary school building, this will then require the HC to provide a condition survey of the building. The aim is to explore possible options for leasing of the building. The NHS Highland has no interest in taking on the former Primary School or the Village Hall. The Highland Council view is that the buildings on the site i.e. Dail Mhor, the former Primary School and the Village Hall have a limited timespan, and have indicated that the Village Hall should be put on a more commercial footing, similar to Highlife Highland and the Sunart Centre. The 5 Community Councils, by ensuring there is a "legal entity", may help focus attention. The matter of a difference in information in the Sunart Community Council minutes and those of Ardgour Community Council is that there has been interest from Highland Hospice with regards the potential for provision of care in the community. Also, we are informed that the Highland Council, as part of the City Deal, are considering using this grant to provide FIT homes on the Highland Council land behind Dail Mhor.

**Longrigg Woodland:** The Longrigg Woodland Group is to arranging a survey of Longrigg Road as a possible route for timber extraction, and ensure all possible options for extraction of timber are explored fully.

**Oakwood Visitor Information Centre:** The Christmas lights switch on and Christmas Market will be on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019, 4:30pm - 7:30pm. There will be late night shopping on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

There are now reduced hours of opening i.e. 12noon – 3pm Monday – Sunday. Oakwood will be shutting for refurbishment and stocktaking in January and February 2020

People who are interested and wishing to volunteer to work in the shop, please contact Izzy Baker or call in to the Oakwood Visitor Information Centre.

**SCC Website:** this is available at: [www.sunartcommunitycouncil.co.uk](http://www.sunartcommunitycouncil.co.uk)

D Mann was thanked for keeping the website updated and ensuring the contracts are in place. There is duplication between the Community Council and Community Company websites, both use the same template and the suggestion is that it might be efficient to link between the sites. J Jones and D Mann will meet to discuss what might be needed and bring suggestions to the Community Council.

**Correspondence:**

- Resilience Plan – J Jones has taken over the co-ordination of updating the plan. A further meeting of the co-ordinators and emergency service and Highland Council representatives will be arranged.
- The request that the Community Council seek to re-instate the benches near the river, by the bridge. On going

**AOB:**

- Drimnatorran Farm: Mrs Shaw had contacted the Chair re the comments in the last minutes. Mrs Shaw wanted to clarify, she had asked for the hearse to be moved as she needed to use the driveway to go out, as the hearse had been parked blocking the driveway for two hours. Action agreed to ask D McCorkindale and J Tyldesley to mention parking arrangements with the funeral directors.
- Car park, Polloch: Kenneth Knott Forestry and Land Scotland will arrange to look at this matter. Loch Shiel Jetties Trust have expressed interest in the locked gate being moved, as this should allow improved access to the Loch Shiel pontoon. JH will invite Forestry and Land Scotland to a meeting at a later date.
- Overhanging trees of the road to the bridge to the Back Road and Drimnatorran Farm: opposite side to the church, needs cutting back – secretary has notified the Highland Council.

**4. Planning Matters -**

- a. None

**5. Correspondence**

- 1) Virtual Reality Sessions - Noted
- 2) Present Voice – Future Lives - Noted
- 3) Scottish Water – Meeting - Noted
- 4) Better Communications – Robin Road
- 5) Corran Ferry – Email P Kennedy - J Jones to attend meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> November 19 at Charles Kennedy Building
- 6) Grant Application – Men’s Shed - J Tyldesley brought an application for a grant. J Hilder and J Jones expressed a potential conflict of interest , being director of the Community Company, and took no part in the discussion. Application for £2,500 grant was discussed and approved. Councillor Baxter also suggest the J Tyldesley might apply to the Highland Council Ward Discretionary Fund as grants of up to £1,000 are available and grants have been made to other Men’s Sheds in the area.

**6. Treasurer’s Report**

Deposit Account is £10,576.18

Current Account is £7,113.26; includes monies held for ring-fenced projects.

There are still monies to be collected from the collection boxes in the Post Office, Shop and Bothy Bar, which together with monies to collect from the adverts place in the Community Council noticeboard, will go towards the cost of the fireworks on bonfire night.

The Community Council wish to thank the volunteers and Alistair McLean for the magnificent fireworks display, a number of compliments had been received from members of the public and local community. Also, our thanks to the local businesses that contributed, and the 10<sup>th</sup> Lochaber Scouts, their leaders and the volunteers who organised the bonfire, the soup, cakes and marshmallows, and to the Show Committee for permission to use the show field.

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

- Councillor Baxter mentioned the importance of there being a representative from each of the community councils on the peninsulas on the Corran Ferry Replacement Steering Group. There is a meeting at 1pm, Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019. The meetings are to outline the business case for the ferry, one option being a replacement ferry (RORO), revised slipways and for leasing a ferry during servicing or in the event of breakdown, etc. Also, discussions with Transport Scotland re tariffs. Councillor Baxter mentioned there are lots of rumours re manning and the return of the ferry but he explained that the ferry is due to return by the end of the month, when the ticket machines will go live. Also, initial budget indications are that there should be no fares increase in 2020.
- Coastguard – It has been brought to our attentions that there have been a two incidents recently where the Coastguard has been involved which has highlighted anomalies in the protocols between the Ambulance Service resulting in delays calling out the Coastguard
- The Sunart Community Company will hold their Christmas Auction from 6pm on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019, in the Village Hall in Strontian
- There is a post for associate director on the Sunart Community Company for the Community Council, as James Hilder is now an elected director of the Community company
- The Community Council panel member for the Sunart Community Benefit Fund is Elaine Sneddon-Hughes

**Date of next meeting:** Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019, 7:30pm in the Village Hall, Strontian

You can contact the Sunart Community Council by:

Email: [sunartcommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:sunartcommunitycouncil@gmail.com)

Post: Sunart Community Council, C/o Creag Ard, 5 Longrigg Road, Strontian PH36 4HY