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**Sunart Community Council
Meeting held 11th April 2019 (7:30pm)
Village Hall, Strontian**

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone. **Apologies** J Hilder (Treasurer), Cllr A Baxter

Attending: D Anderson (Chair), C Hunter (Vice Chair), T Coldwell, L Wilson, J Jones (Secretary) two members of the public.

2. Minutes of meeting held 14th February 2019: Proposed C Hunter, seconded T Coldwell.

Amendments: Planning Matters: A correction re ref 18/05702/FUL proposed dwelling house 90 metres SE of Hillcroft – there had been two objections, one lodged direct to the Highland Council.

Mr & Mrs Boyd attended and presented information. Planning permission was granted for this development ref. 16/00598/FUL Land 150M NE Of Achnalea Ardgour. A reply to our enquiry to Highland Council is awaited.

3. Matters arising from the previous minutes

Police Matters: None reported. However, as usual, if anyone has any information or wishes to report concerns or incidents to the Police, then please ring 101, or the local Police Station telephone number is 01967 402022.

Heritage: On going.

Monument Park: On going.

Dail Mhor House: A public meeting was held on the 28th March 2019, to provide and update current situation. Attending were Tracey Ligema, Ross McKenzie, Marie Law, Claire Cameron from NHS Highland, Lara Van de Peer, the Community Councils Project Officer, and the meeting was chaired by J Hilder, Chair of the Community Councils Project Action Group. People were informed that Dail Mhor is open as a respite care centre and there are day activities including a lunch club. The NHS has provided a written commitment to work with the Community Councils to develop a service to meet the future needs of the communities on the peninsulas.

Longrigg Woodland: The “Steering Group” meeting with the consultants to present their findings and get feedback for them to develop a business plan. It was agreed that the time frame for the 2nd Stage CATS application would be put back until the next round later in 2019 and the Scottish Land Fund have been informed. The Longrigg Working Group will meet again when the draft business plan is received from the consultants. The Community Company were informed that the Ardnastang Grazing’s Committee would like the Company to attend a Grazing’s Committee meeting and the Community Company Secretary made a commitment to do this.

Visitor Information Centre: The Oakwood Tourism and Craft Centre is now open and being run by volunteers; the organisation and training of volunteers has been managed by Izzy Baker. Anyone wishing to volunteer should contact Izzy Baker or leave contact details at the Oakwood Centre.

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SCC Website: Dean Mann has developed the website and has suggested the website and Facebook page be linked. He also has suggested that the Community Council have a linked email address and asked whether Community Councillors would like individual email addresses linked to the website domain.

Correspondence: Resilient Communities Fund - SSE Networks - J Hilder will contact the Village Hall committee to find out if any further equipment is needed, and will apply for funding as appropriate – on going

AoB items:

- Housing – School Road – A response has been received from the Susan Hunter from the Highlands Small Community Housing Trust (HSCHT) giving an update on the heating and ventilation system and the information provided to tenants. She also provided a copy of the report carried out by specialist contractor. If any occupant are dissatisfied by the service provided by either the HSCHT or Lochaber Housing this can be passed to C Hunter who can pursue the matter.
- War Memorial – On going.
- Email J McIntyre re Deer numbers in the village – See correspondence item 5.
- Resilience Plan – Community Councillors met at 7pm 11th April to update information. The Resilience Plan will continue to be a standing item on the agenda for the next few meetings.
- Scottish Water – Disposal of assets – The Community Company is awaiting a response from the Anaheilt Grazing's Committee
- Corran Ferry – There was a meeting the 21st March 2019 at the Sunart Centre attended by representatives from the five Community Councils. It was agreed that there would be a presentation by Community Council representatives to the Highland Council Lochaber Sub Committee, which comprises the Lochaber Highland Councillors. This sub committee is chaired by Councillor Baxter and was held at the Sunart Community Centre in Strontian. The Community Councils' representatives explained the importance of this vital service and the impact of increasing fares, giving an example of the percentage cost for a person on minimum living who has to travel daily to Fort William for work; the cost would amount to approximately 40% of their wage. Highland Council officers presented information on the costs of running the ferry and that the ticketing system is at the end of its working life and needing replacement; that both ferries are requiring major overhaul to the steering systems; the ramps on the main ferry need replacing. The options for ticketing foot passengers were discussed and the need for better monitoring of vehicle usage by mobile homes and lorries. Also, it was acknowledged that the ferries are working at a maximum capacity at peak times as they have to shuttle to meet the demand. The need to review the pricing structure, which was set many years ago based on weight of vehicles when it should now be based more on the size of the vehicle. There is also to be a project to look at options for a fixed link but these will be for some years in the future and a project officer will be seconded and their post back-filled. The Highland Council officers acknowledged that the ferry is an essential lifeline link. The suggestion was made that the project officer should also look at the Corran Ferry replacement and not just the fixed link.
- Gravelling the Recycling Area – JJ had spoken with Roy Cattle who will look into the matter
- Community Council Scheme – recruitment of a young person – JH not present, carried forward

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- Lochaber Health Sub Group – CH has been attending as the Community Council representative and explained that this is a strategic planning group looking at the new Belford Hospital and so it doesn't discuss operational matters such as the shortage of specialist staff e.g. physiotherapists, etc.
- Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) Deer management issues around the village. The FCS have strengthened and repaired the perimeter fences around the Ariundle, Drimnatorran and Carnoch woods with the aim of preventing deer from the estates to the north and east entering the village. There are deer in the show field and moving back and forth along the shore. It would appear these are coming from the Carnoch side but without a deer fence at the cattle grid there is a slow but steady movement of hinds into the village for protection.
- Access to motor vehicles: Roads on the NFE are restricted to authorised vehicles that require to be compliant with the road traffic act as far as they are classed as public highways (road tax, insurance, etc). The speed limit (designed) for these roads is 15mph. and there may be additional restrictions due to operations reasons. Any vehicle that is using the NFE should either be authorised under a lease, or have access rights such as tenant, retained rights and will be known to most users. The short-term access can be granted for specific permissions such as contracts, surveys and permissions such as firewood. For these short-term permissions we ask permission holders to display permit when accessing the NFE and this should be visible to others such as your members. Contract holders are not normally required to display permits as operational signage, etc can show that they are undertaking works. This is all in the ideal world and it is possible for permit holders to fail to display their permit, forget it or move it when travelling and it doesn't help try and confirm this if the vehicle is moving. All of these access arrangements are required to follow our 15mph road restrictions if they are driving unsafely through speed or otherwise we can remove their permissions but to do this we need to have evidence from a staff member or member of the public with date/time/location and registration number (also make, model and colour if possible). Any other vehicle not outline above is unauthorised; however without every access point having secured and locked gates, controlling access can be difficult even with signs in place.

4. Planning Matters -

- a. 19/01344/FUL Erection of house (renewal of planning permission 16/01193/FUL) Noted

5. Correspondence

- a. Highland Community Councils- Noted
- b. NHS Highland Annual Review - Deferred to 25th April 2019 - noted
- c. Team Frog – Noted and for the Facebook page
- d. Stakeholder Meeting – Strontian Primary School Transition Project - Noted
- e. Monument Park Water & Vehicular Access – Kenneth Knott - Noted
- f. NHS Annual Review – Rescheduled Date – duplicated, b. above
- g. Reply re 18/05702/FUL - Noted
- h. Suicide Prevention Group – Open Community Meeting Invitation – For Facebook page
- i. Resilience Committee Conference 2019 – 11th September – CH to explore
- j. Shaved Cats - Noted
- k. Celebrate CCs throughout April -Noted

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- l. Email Brad Simmons re Strontian Cemetery Records –Noted. After research CH has been able to provide information and refer Mr Simmons to the National Records Office in Edinburgh.
- m. SMMAATA – Receipt – Noted and passed to Treasurer
- n. SMMAATA Spring Update - Noted
- o. Planning Democracy – Conference 11th May 2019 - Noted
- p. East Loch Shiel Deer Management Group – Notice of meetings
- q. Email Hazel Yule - Actioned
- r. Ardnamurchan Provincial Mod – Letter of thanks from the MOD secretary - Noted
- s. Consultation on Revised Guidance for Licensing Boards - Noted
- t. HSCHT – Susan Hunter – No6 School Road – Noted
- u. Email re Community Council Website and email – noted
- v. Seafarers UK – Fly the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day 3rd September - Noted

6. Treasurer's Report

Deposit Account is £10,555.07

Current Account is £3,075.42

7. Any other Business (AoB)

- a. Grant Application: Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme - £200 approved
 - b. Horsley Cottage public path – Refer to the Access Officer
 - c. Village Clean up – Bags and gloves have been provided by the Council Depot; the High School have done clean up work along the Back Road; JJ will liaise with the Loch Group re best date. [The best date for this is Sunday 5th May 2019 between 11am – 2pm] The date and information will be posted on the Website and Facebook page.
 - d. Raising the Anchor – A meeting will be convened; details will be posted on the Website and Facebook page.
 - e. Dog Poo Bin - a suggestion is to use a green bin but would it be possible to add it to the list of collections. Secretary will speak with environmental Health for advice.
8. **Date of next meeting:** Thursday 9th May 2019, 7:30pm in the Village Hall, Strontian.
- a. The **Community Councillors will meet at 7pm 9th May 2019** to update the Resilience Plan

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