FINAL

**Minutes of Sunart Community Council**
**Meeting held 13th August (5pm), video meeting**

1. **Welcome and Apologies**
   **Apologies** D Anderson (Chair)

   **Attending**: J Jones (secretary), D Mann, E Sneddon-Hughes, F Christian J Hilder (Treasurer),

2. **Minutes of meeting held 14th May 2020**: Proposed: F Christian, Seconded: J Hilder.
   **Amendments:** A member of the public had phoned the Chair and commented about the state of the grass and tubs outside Dail Mhor and the old primary school, that the contractors had left the cut grass and it now looked an eyesore. The secretary telephoned the person raising the issue and explained the situation and apologised. The problem with the grass was discussed at the June meeting and noted in the minutes, item 3: Dail Mhor House, and a request for volunteers was put on Facebook. We wish to thank the volunteers who collected and removed the grass cutting.

3. **Matters arising from the previous minutes**
   **Police Matters**: Email update received from PC Campbell:
   *The Police continue to engage with tourists and wild campers who have travelled into the area since the lifting of restrictions, it seems to have paid dividends compared to some other tourist hotspots in Lochaber with the majority of people adhering to the advice the Police have given them.*

   *The threat of the Covid 19 virus is still real and the situation in Aberdeen is evidence of how quickly it can spread. Please remain vigilant, and if you have any symptoms isolate and contact NHS 24 who will advise you of what measures to take. It is worth keeping a note of people you have had interactions with in case there is a requirement for contact tracing.*

   *Everyone seems to be complying with the mandatory mask wearing which is really good to see. Can parents of High School children remind them that if they are going to the Strontian Store they must adhere to the "only 4 persons in at a time policy". They must socially distance and queue accordingly, and cannot congregate at the door like they used to before. Also, they must have a mask on inside the shop.*

   *Dogs: we have had a few complaints regarding dogs being off their leads and jumping up on people and chasing other dogs, sheep, deer etc. Dogs must be kept under control at all times, this means that they will stop and return when called. Not everyone likes dogs so please be mindful when out walking your dogs.*

   *The new Police Officer, PC Joan MacIver, has moved over from Fort William and hopefully will be starting in her post in the next few weeks, so until then you have to put up with me!*

   **Heritage**: *Free Church Anchor* – On-going.

   **Monument Park Drinking Water Supply**: on-going. The Covid 19 restrictions are still in place, however, the secretary will contact Scottish Water for an update.

   **Dail Mhor House** On-going

   **Longrigg Woodland**: On going.

4. **Planning Matters** –
   a. 20/02357/FUL Easghdail, Longrigg Road Strontian – Sun room and balcony extension - Noted
   b. 20/02564/PNO Land 420M E of Achnalea, Ardgour – Construction of a track - Noted
   c. 20/02684/PNO Mountain View Croft, 16 Anaheilt, Strontian – Erection of agricultural building – Noted
   d. 20/02734/FUL Land 55M SW of Strontian Primary School, School Road, Strontian – F Christian declared an interest as being a near neighbour – so although not quorate, item was noted.

**5. Correspondence**
   a. Helping Hands – Thank you card for Mr & Mrs Ogilve – The Community Council received a photograph for the azalea plant and thank you card. The Community Council have also received numerous letters of thanks for the Sunday meals. There is now a gallery page on the website displaying a selection of the thank you letters and cards.
   b. Email from De tha dol? re email from T Dobson – Noted, and the Community Council submitted a reply to the De tha Dol?
   c. Corran Ferry Steering Group Actions – Noted
   d. Email re NC 500 Signage - Noted
   e. Scottish Government Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund – Round 3 - Noted. Sunart Community Council explored the possibility of applying to improve tourism infrastructure. However, the criteria are for applications where planning permission had already been granted. The fund appears to be for larger projects and considered less likely for small communities.
   f. Corran Ferry Reintroduction of Fares – Noted and now introduced
   g. Wild Camping Posters - PDFs of the posters can be downloaded from the Community Council website
   h. Scottish Government Face to Face Community Council meetings – Highland Council. Noted and the correspondence from the Scottish Government indicates that the restrictions will be reviewed on the 19th September 2020. Therefore the next Community Council will be conducted by Zoom.
   i. West Highland Peninsulas Visitor Charter – CV 19 Response – Noted. For display on the noticeboard and available for download on the Community Council website.
   j. Email – re grass and tubs outside the old primary school – Noted. URRAM Chair contacted Tom Murdison at the Highland Council re maintenance of gutters and roof, and the grounds being maintained and tidied, and asked if volunteers could do some strimming and tidying. On 3rd August 2020 a reply was received explaining that the NHS is responsible for maintaining the grounds but this in a low priority at the moment. Highland Council could not allow strimming as this is a high-risk activity. The tubs will be moved to the playground, which appears to have been strimmed.
   k. Email NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland – Engaging Differently - Noted
   l. Notification of Provisional Premises Licence Application – Ben View Hotel, Strontian J Hilder declared a potential conflict of interest. Noted and for display on the notice board
   m. West Highland Peninsulas – Community Council support for Tourism Survey – Noted and will reply.

**6. Treasurer's Report**

Deposit Account is £10,576.18; Current Account is £5,438.86. The Treasurer explained that the Community Council have yet to make a claim for costs i.e. for Helping Hands work, from the Sunart Community Company for the HIE grant that has been awarded and to produce a report for HIE. The Community Council is also working with Lara Van de Peer with regards a joint funding application with the other peninsulas community councils to find ways for caring for vulnerable people as we move forward post Covid 19.

7. **Any other Business (AoB) –**
   a. RSPB Glencripesdale – The RSBP have asked to meet with the Sunart Community Council and Morvern Community Council on the 5th October to discuss the potential acquisition of land in Glencripesdale. Agreed to provide a representative to attend. A note has been placed on the Facebook page.
   b. Scotstown Common Grazings Committee – The Community Council previously agreed to loan £5,000 for fencing at Scotstown Grazings. The Treasurer has not released the funds as is waiting for the Sunart Community Benefit Fund (SCBF) to meet and confirm match funding and appropriate details of assurance, etc.
   c. A member of the public contacted J Hilder about damage to their field caused by the contractor developing the houses adjoining the field. Mr Hilder has explained that it would be Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust (HSCHT) or Lochaber Housing who would be the appropriate people to contact. After discussion it was agreed that Sunart Community Council write to HSCHT to explain the complainant has written but has received no acknowledgement or reply.
   d. Vehicles speeding on School Road, Strontian: A complaint has been received that vehicles are using School Road as a racetrack in the evenings. After discussion it was agreed that the complainant should speak with the local police. Also the secretary will contact the Highland Council Roads and Technical Services and the Police.

**Helping Hands**

The Sunart Community Councillors meet every Friday via Zoom to co-ordinate Helping Hands work and activity. The notes below list current points:

- As mentioned in the earlier the Treasurer has spoken with Lara Van de Peer about consulting with the peninsulas community councils with regard a joint funding application to explore the continuing requirement for vulnerable people on the peninsulas
- Treasurer also explained that there is a substantial piece of work to prepare and submitting a report to HIE re the grant funding received from the Scottish Government
- **Helpline:** this number will be retained and the end reviewed at the end of August
- **Website:** all is okay
- **Books/jigsaws and facemasks:** The book table outside the village stores continues to work well. Items are being donated and the donation's box in located on the counter in the village store. We wish to express our thanks to Helen Tait for her work on the books and jigsaws, and to Justine Dunn and Marilyn Gascoyne for providing the facemasks. The suggestion was made about continue the book swap and jigsaws as this is proofing so popular
- **Sunday lunches:** are continuing and the Bothy Bar and Restaurant will be providing the meals for the next two weeks. Meals will continue until the end of August so on Sunday 10th, 23rd and 30th August
- **Prescription deliveries:** the Doctor's surgery has asked if Helping Hands will continue delivering the prescriptions. After discussion it was agreed the need to discuss with Dial Mhor, clarify current situation and discuss again at the next meeting.
- There is also the need to Clarify with Dail Mhor the situation with respite and prevision of the daily hot meal for a local resident post August 2020.

**Date of next meeting:** The Sunart Community Council is scheduled for Thursday 10th September 2020 at 5:00pm via Zoom as Covid 19 restrictions will still be in place.

You can contact the Sunart Community Council by:
**Email**: john.jones@sunartcommunitycouncil.co.uk
**Post**: Sunart Community Council, C/o Creag Ard, 5 Longrigg Road, Strontian PH36 4HY
**Website**: www.sunartcommunitycouncil.co.uk