

FINAL

Minutes of Sunart Community Council

Meeting held Friday 12th November 2020 (7:30pm), video meeting

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies J Hilder would be joining the meeting at 8pm

Attending: D Anderson (DA) (Chair) J Jones (JJ) (secretary), F Christian (FC), J Hilder (JH) (Treasurer) from 8pm, E Sneddon-Hughes ESH, Cllr A Baxter.

2. Minutes of meeting held 16th October 2020: Proposed: F Christian, Seconded: E Sneddon-Hughes. Amendments: None

3. Matters arising from the previous minutes

Police Matters: An email update was received from PC Campbell.

Covid – The Police ask that everyone must stick with the guidance being issued by the Scottish Government regarding social distancing, mask wearing, etc. The Police will be doing increased Licensed Premises checks in the coming weeks to ensure the regulations are being adhered to. As it stands, licenced premises should not be allowing entry to the premises after 21:30hrs and must have the doors closed at 22:30hrs.

A reminder to all to make sure you lock up your sheds, work sites houses and cars, etc. Lock away bikes and tools and if possible, make sure all serial numbers are noted and mark your property. There have been a few thefts in Lochaber in the recent weeks, although nothing here; so lets hopefully keep it that way.

Heritage: Free Church Anchor – JJ took John MacMillan's (diver) suggestion of moving the anchors closer to the jetty, to the Community Company meeting. After discussion the Community Company ask that the anchors remain where they are and ask John MacMillan to provide GPS co-ordinates for when the anchors might be lifted for conservation. The reasons for this recommendation are that the anchors may deteriorate less where they are currently, that placing them closer to the jetty by the moorings may increase the risk of damage and also incur moorings charges from the Crown Estate.

Monument Park Drinking Water Supply: on-going. The Covid 19 restrictions are still in place; the Secretary will speak with the Scottish Water contact. Cllr Baxter said he would follow this up with Scottish Water.

Dail Mhor House is operational. Urram has produced the public survey for the Dail Mhor Care Hub Concept and Vision for the site and hard copies are available at the Village Store and on line via the website <http://urram.net> or should anyone prefer, can be completed by phone on 07517 035005.

Longrigg Woodland: On going.

Correspondence: Drimnatorran Cemetery – The Secretary has written to ask Highland Council to write to landowners to confirm vehicular access is permitted and seek assurances that the roadway and turning circle are left clear for funerals in future.

AOB: Corran Ferry – Councillor Baxter gave an update: The Highland Council and the Steering Group revisited the options and the two ferry option is now the preferred option as this gives increased capacity and resilience. This went to the Highland Council and was approved. It was welcome to note that a number of councillors recognised that this is a lifeline service. Councillor Baxter met with Murray Bain and Richard Porteous and set in motion funding for a new study and the consultants will be asked to cost for the option of

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upgrading the A861 to a two lane road, from Ardgour though to the A830, and to include the cost of replacing and widening the railway bridge that is close to the A830. Councillor Baxter also mentioned that there would be new ticketing and the advance multiple ticket purchase will be reviewed i.e. the number bought may available in different volumes e.g. 10, 20 or 30. Councillor Baxter will raise the suggestion that vehicle number plate recognition technology might be an option for use on the ferries.

4. Planning Matters –

- a) 20/04168/FUL removal of caravan and erection of house – land 145M SW of the Ariundle Centre, Strontian - Noted

5. Correspondence

- a. 30mph Zone - PC Campbell

- i. P Donaldson - Highland Council

Comments have been received about the speed that some drivers go across the cattle grid past the jetty, braking only at the last minute, just before the 30mph speed sign. The Community Council has been asked if the 30mph sign might be moved to 100 metres before the cattle grid. This issue has become more noticeable as there are more people are using the jetty, slipway and parking area e.g. boat owners, kayakers, open water swimmers, etc. Comments have been received about the speed of some vehicles going past, jetty users feeling exposed and there is anxiety about an increased accident risk.

The Secretary has contacted the Police and Highland Council (HC) on this matter. The question of whether this is more of an issue in the summer months or all year round was raised by the HC. However, it may be that some people more familiar with the road may go fast past the car parking area as the 30mph limit starts about 250 metres further along the road, just before the war memorial. The HC pointed out that there are count down signs leading into the 30mph limit, but will investigate laying some additional “slow” marking before the cattle grid as there is already one after it. They also suggest the Community Council might consider an article in their social media page or website as a useful way to raise the issue locally and make people aware of the concerns being expressed.

- b. Glencripesdale – RSPB - Noted

- c. Virtual Meetings – D Ferguson - Noted. The Community Council will examine options for virtual meeting in 2021

- d. Public Consultation – HC Rural Housing Policy - Noted and placed on the website

- i. Meeting re RSPB Scotland – Morvern CC - The Chair of Morvern CC has emailed the secretary indicating that there is a reasonable level of support for RSPB’s proposal; the level of support has increased since RSPB say they could commit to certain levels of employment and capital input into the management of the reserve, and there was considerable interest in some form of community representation on a meaningful reserve management committee. Morvern CC would push for maximum commitment for community benefit from RSPB in return for the CC’s support for RSPB’s proposals. The view is that this would be more effective if Morvern and Sunart CCs worked together in this direction. To date there has been no response to our Facebook post about the proposed disposal of Glencripesdale reserve and so Sunart CC will not be asking the Community Company to register an interest to acquire the reserve. There was agreement that we work with Morvern CC towards having RSPB establish community presence on a management committee for the reserve.

- e. Resilience Plan – Noted

- f. Co-opt member – There are currently vacancies on the community council and we will explore the suggestion to co-opt members

- g. Village Hall/ Surgery Public toilets – Arrangements have been made to clean the toilets in the village hall each week and for prescriptions to be issued on the days when the

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doctor or the nurse is in the surgery. Issuing of prescriptions from the foyer will start on the 23rd November 2020

- h. Accommodation sought for Ardgour teacher – JH. Noted - accommodation has been found
 - i. *Support in Mind* project proposal – Ewen's Room. Ewen's Room meetings continue and they are exploring a project/s involving some outdoor activities; JH has submitted a funding bid to support a potential project.
 - j. Remembrance Sunday – D McCorkindale – Noted. Comment had been received that the Scouts had not been informed of the changed arrangements
 - k. K6 Phone Box, Polloch –Mark Embling – The request that the K6 Telephone kiosk in Polloch be acquired for the community, this would be maintained by local resident/s as a valuable piece of social history and to secure it's future; and to house a defibrillator for the local, isolated, community and visiting public. The idea was supported and the Community Council arrange for the box to be acquired [it costs £1 for a community to acquire] and then pass to the Community Company to hold on behalf of the community in Sunart Community Council area. This is necessary as community councils are not allowed to own assets. The suggestion was made to do likewise for the K6 phone box in Scotstown - a post will be placed on the Facebook page.
- l. Litter – C Millar-Craig – Noted and our thanks to the High School for raising the issue of litter on the back road and School Road.
- m. Employment related Training – C Singer WHC - Noted
- n. FLS Bridge Closure Ariundle Woodland – D Robertson FLS – The Bridges in the Ariundle Woodland across the Strontian River are overdue for inspection by the FLS Engineer and so for safety reasons will be closed to the public. Similarly, for the bridges on the Faeries road path, which will be shut from Friday 20th November until further notice. It was agreed to contact FLS to explain the importance of these routes to local people and ask that the work be expedited. However, it seems the lower bridge across the Strontian River may need to be replaced.
- o. Grit Bins and footpath snow clearing – Highland Council – The Highland Council are offering grit, grit bins, shovels, gloves, hi-viz vests and Health & Safety advice and Public Liability Insurance to volunteers who might wish to register their willingness to assist with footpath clearing. Details are on the Community Council website
- p. Boundary Commission Review – Details of the review are on the Facebook page
- q. Defibrillator - Noted
- r. SMMAATA Invite to members - Noted

6. Treasurer's Report

Deposit Account is £10,587.99; Current Account is £4148.27. E Sneddon-Hughes agreed to take over the Treasurer role.

7. Any other Business (AoB) –

- a) D Mann – email: Dean has tended his resignation as a community councillor. However, he has agreed to continue as an associate and attend the Highland Council Corran Ferry Steering Group on our behalf
- b) Strontian mountain bike race – a question was raised as to whether or not there would be any objection to having an event in February 2021. This would be organised by a High School student as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award. The idea was fully supported.
- c) Remembrance Sunday wreath laying – This was organised for the 8th November 2020; there may have been an oversight as the Scouts were not informed of the arrangements. However, the Scout's wreath has been laid at the memorial.
- d) Christmas Fair – JH gave an update: the Community Company and Oakwood are arranging a Christmas fair to be held in the village car park area and outside the Woodland Pottery. The appropriate licence has been applied for and full social

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distancing and the Covid restrictions will be applied. The intention is to create the opportunity and bring a little comfort and cheer in these difficult and strange times. The fair will be on Saturday, 28th November from 5pm – 8pm. The lights on the Sunart Christmas Tree will be turned on during this event.

- e) Urram – The Dail Mhor Care Hub consultation has gone out to all community councils on the peninsulas and we urge as many people as possible to complete the questionnaire

Date of next meeting: The Sunart Community Council is scheduled for Thursday 10th December 2020 at 7:30pm via Zoom as Covid 19 restrictions apply.

You can contact the Sunart Community Council by:

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