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Sunart Community Council
7:30pm, 12th August 2021

1. **Welcome and Apologies:** Attending: J D Anderson (Chair), J Jones (secretary), E Sneddon-Hughes (Treasurer), J Hilder. Apologies: F Christian
2. **Acceptance of previous minutes 10th June 2021 (inc amendments)**
Amendments: June Minutes Item 2 Acceptance of previous minutes 15th April 2021 should read 13th May 2021. Minutes proposed: J Hilder, Seconded: D Anderson
3. **Matters arising**
 - Police matters:** PC Maciver emailed her apologies for not being able to attend the meeting. There is nothing to report at this time.
 - Heritage:** Free Church Anchor – on going
 - Monument Park Drinking Water Supply:** secretary to email Gavin Steele at Scottish Water for an update
 - Dail Mhor House:** There has been a slight easing of restrictions but there is no access to the main areas. JH met with NHS and Highland Council representatives. NHS has renewed its commitment to maintaining Dail Mhor whilst the feasibility study is completed and a new Action Plan is in place. The NHS have asked if the Community Council Helping Hands or Urram could restart the Strontian Lunch Club in the Village Hall. However, JH explained that the HC have currently closed the Village Hall for health and safety reasons pending some work.
 - Longrigg Woodland:** is on going and there will be a short article in the September De tha dol?
4. **Planning Matters**
 - a. 21/03590/PNO Erection of Agricultural Building 325m NW of Hill House, 18 Upper Scotstown - Noted
 - b. 21/03267/FUL Construction of 740m of ATV track up to 2.5m width 2145m South of Scamodale, Glenfinnan – Noted
5. **Correspondence**
 - a. Fassfern Mussels - Noted
 - b. Cycling in Scotland – Shift – Discussed the Safe Routes to School funding which does not apply to Strontian
 - c. Fireworks Consultation Launch and Fireworks (Scotland) Regulations – Cub Scouts have agreed to do a bonfire and the Community council are looking at fireworks options. The fireworks information has been on Facebook.
 - d. Lochaber Redesign Newsletter – Noted. Information is on the website and secretary will ask for a link to the NHS page
 - e. Strontian Church Building Update – We have received correspondence informing that the Church of Scotland in Strontian will be disposed of due to declining use. There will be an open Zoom meeting on Wednesday 8th September to progress ideas and possibilities. Also there will be an article in the September De tha dol? and information on social media and the church website where the Strontian page will be updated regularly. This matter was discussed by the Sunart Community Company directors at their last meeting, two directors will attend the meeting on the 8th September. We thank Rev McCorkindale; both the Community Council and the Community Company are fully committed to seeking options to have the building remain as an asset and facility for the community.
 - f. Zurich – Making a Claim - Noted
 - g. ICO (Data Protection) Scottish Community Council Summer Newsletter - Noted and our subscription has been paid
 - h. Community Resilience Group Briefings 30/7/21 – Noted. The weekly briefing is placed on the website
 - i. Scottish Community Council Summer Newsletter - Noted

6. Treasurer's Report

Current Account: £3,126.45

Deposit Account: £5,588.67. The loan of £5,000 to Scotstown Common Grazings Committee is still outstanding and we understand the work has been completed so the claim for reimbursement can be made. The Treasurer will write to the Treasurer of the Common Grazings for a progress and an indication for when the loan will be repaid.

Grant Application – Katie Cameron had asked for support, as she will be in the team to represent GB in the Horse and Carriage Championship: the secretary emailed Katie to inform her of our £200 donation and will contact her again for bank details.

7. Any other business

- a. Aquaculture Stewardship Council - Mowi Scotland Camas Glas - Stakeholder Information: This is not in our area and we are not aware of any issues
- b. Corran Ferry – Kate Forbes visit is postponed as the Ivan McKee MSP, Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise is unable to attend. The visit will be rescheduled in October.
- c. Acharacle Play park – SMMAATA: A request for a donation; Sunart Community Council will not be giving a donation.
- d. Lunch Club: the NHS has asked formally for the lunch club in the Village Hall to be restarted. J Hilder explained that the Highland Council have informed the Village Hall Committee that the hall is currently closed. He also explained to the Highland Council representative that various groups wanting to use the hall e.g. the Community Company are looking to hold a community consultation, the Cub Scouts to restart their meetings, also the Whist Club and the line dancing. The Community Council reiterate our support to the Village Hall Committee for the Highland Council to allow the hall reopen - The secretary to email D Gibb, D Ferguson and our Highland Council Councillors.
- e. Ariundle/Faeries route bridges – The secretary to email D Robertson for a bridge specification and costings so funding options can be explored.
- f. A member of the community is concerned that the West Lochaber Transport Project funding is finishing and the community vehicle will no longer be available. A discussion took place and Urram may be an appropriate body to explore ways to progress this matter with a NHS Area Manager. This is a wider issue and affects all the community councils. We wish to thank the member of the community for raising this issue. The Community Council fully supports Urram in exploring options and obtaining funding.
- g. Community Action Plan – the Community Company is looking to facilitate a short-life working group to conduct a community consultation over the next year. People interested in being on a winter consultation please contact Becky@sunartcommunitycompany.co.uk
- h. Vehicle charging point: we have recently received information that Strontian is in line for two charging points. This is a government-funded scheme and Strontian is eligible due the facilities we have in the village which meet the criteria, which places us high on the list. There would be two fast charging points located behind Oakwood on the green as this location is placed near to the required electric supply and will allow for larger vehicles. The Highland Council would own these charging points. This raises a related point, one raised with the community council and community company in the past: whether or not there is any interest a car club scheme in Strontian - there would be a membership fee, etc. We are interested to hear views on this.
- i. Corran Ferry Steering Group met on 9th August 2021. The Highland Council will fund the £1,600,000 for the replacement ferry, slipways and load areas feasibility study. Naval architects are being appointed to prepare basic details in September. There is a third design option however a two ferry option with capacity for two articulated vehicles plus smaller vehicles is the preference. The consultants had also looked at a no ferry option with the road from Ardgour to the A830 being made to a two-lane standard, this

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would cost £190 million which is considerably greater than the £120 million for ferry and slipway replacement. Also the road upgrade would be upfront cost whereas the ferry replacement is spread over 50 years. There was discussion about the additional time driving round to Fort William or the Ballachulish Bridge of 15 minutes and 40 minutes respectively. Community Council representative raised this as being unreasonable and the consult have been asked to look at these figures again. The consultants also looked at the socio-economic report and the report highlights the large negative impact on local communities and businesses. Councillor Baxter thanked the consultants for their report and presentation and they agreed the report go to the full Council.

8. **Date of next meeting** – 9th September 2021 at 7:30pm, currently via Zoom

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