

Sunart Community Council
Minutes 11th November 2021 (via Zoom)

1. Welcome and Apologies:

- a. Attending: J Hilder, E Sneddon-Hughes (Treasurer), J Jones (Secretary), D Anderson (Chair) J May
- b. Apologies: PC J Mciver, V Balnaves-Aitken

2. Acceptance of previous minutes (Inc. amendments)

Proposed: D Anderson Seconded: E Sneddon-Hughes

Amendments to October 2021 minutes: The Treasurer's Report item on the repayment by the Scotstown Common Grazings Committee of the £5,000 loan also included a letter of thanks the note of which had been omitted in error from the minutes. The secretary apologises for the oversight, and the Community Council are grateful for the prompt repayment, which is well ahead of the date agreed.

3. Matters arising

- a. Police matters – please see the Police Newsletter below
- b. Items from the previous month's:
 - Monument Park Water Supply: an email received (item i. in correspondence). The Secretary had contacted Scottish Water and in view of the Highland Council guidance, the proposed meeting with residents has been deferred to the new year. The majority of residents at Monument Park remain on a temporary Scottish Water supply, however this is not a long-term solution.
 - Lunch Club: We understand that the Village Hall Committee have received a temporary contract from Highland Council, which might enable the Hall to be re-opened. They are currently considering the matter.
 - Ariundle and Faeries Road route closures: information received from Forestry and Land Scotland indicates a cost of £6,000 per linear metre to replace the bridge to a standard for horses. We are awaiting further details and an outline design for the lower bridge on the Ariundle River.
 - Charging Points: on going, it will be some months before we hear anything further

4. Planning Matters

- a. 21/04605/FUL Raise the roof 25, Anaheilt Strontian - Noted
- b. 21/04837/FUL Alterations and extension 1 Dal Bheag, Anaheilt, Strontian - Noted
- c. 21/04842/FUL Erection of boathouse with residential accommodation above - Noted

5. Correspondence

Carried forward from September 2021:

- a. Vacant and Derelict Land Investment Programme - noted
- b. Queen's Platinum Jubilee – noted and posted on Facebook
- c. Scottish Community Council Newsletter - Noted
- d. Grant Funding for Community Councils to promote cycling – J Hilder has spoken with Ardgour Community Council and they would like to collaborate with Sunart Community Council, however currently there is no capacity though we are interested. Ideas are welcome from members of the community. Please email to enquiries@sunartcommunitycouncil.co.uk
- e. Highland Council – Sunart Community Council Annual Grant 2021/22 - noted
- f. Corran Ferry Video Survey - noted and posted on Facebook
- g. A Local Government by-election will be held on Thursday, 2 December 2021 to fill a vacancy that has arisen in Ward 21 following the sad death of Councillor Ian Ramon, one of 4 Councillors representing the Fort William and Ardnamurchan Ward – noted.
- h. Communities Leading in Tourism development programme - noted

- i. Water Supply Monument Park, Strontian – see above under Matters Arising
- j. Local Government Planning Committee – Call for views on understanding barriers to participation in local politics – noted and posted on Facebook

6. Treasurer's Report

Deposit account: £10,588.86 Current account: £9,657.68

Over £700 has been received from the sale of books, from the stall outside the Sunart Store and outside the doctors' surgery entrance. Some of this money has gone to support the library; the rest will be retained by Community Council for Covid related assistance in the community or similar. We wish to thank all members of the public for donating books.

The Cub Scouts had a very successful bonfire night receiving over £500 in donations on the night. The Scouts have offered to donate one third of the money raised to the Sunart Community Council. J Hilder commented that this was a very generous offer and proposed that the Community Council ask the Scouts to retain this donation for use by the Cub Scouts. J Jones seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously.

The Community Council wish to remind all community groups in the Sunart Community Council area that we offer grants of up to £500 to support local activities and initiatives. The application form is available on the Community Council website.

7. Any other business

- a. Sunart Community Council: Councillor Co-option of Janet May and Victoria Balnaves-Aitken. Proposed D Anderson, Seconded J Hilder and carried unanimously
- b. We wish to commend everyone involved in building the bonfire, preparing and serving the refreshments, those setting off the fireworks and the safety marshals. It was an excellent event and display and much appreciated by those attending
- c. Notification of a meeting at 7pm on Thursday, 18th November 21 via Zoom to Help Save the Salen Wood School
- d. J Hilder has submitted a proposal to Sunart Community Council proposing the development of a community endowment fund. James Hilder declared an interest and he was invited to explain the proposition. The aim is an endowment fund, this would accrue funds that can provide the Sunart Community with an income when the Sunart Community Renewables hydro payments reduce in about 11 years time. The fund is with a charity, Foundation Scotland, and they will match fund pound for pound to a maximum of £50,000 provided the minimum £25,000 can be raised to start the fund. This is a stock market product, however, the investment portfolio is with ethical stocks and in low risk categories, with forecast income is 4% pa. The intension is to approach the Community Benefit Fund (CBF), the Community Council, Sunart Community Renewables and the Community Company. The Community Benefit fund committee think this is an excellent opportunity and have agreed to invest £7,500. The request is for the Community Council to invest £6,000 of the £10,000 in the deposit account. Given the funds in the current and deposit accounts, J Jones proposed matching the CBF's £7,500; D Anderson seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. The Sunart Community Company will launch an appeal after Christmas to raise between £25,000 and £50,000. The advantage of this fund is that money infested is still accessible, so if money was needed it can be withdrawn at any time, though obviously this reduces the value of the endowment fund. However, on the other hand if there is surplus money this can be paid back in to increase the value the endowment.
- e. Remembrance Sunday Wreath Laying at the War Memorial is Sunday 14th November at 12 noon, Janet May will lay the wreath on behalf of the Sunart Community Council

- f. There will be a Christmas Fair on Saturday 27th November between 5pm and 8pm organised by the Community Company and Community Council. There will be craft stalls, a street market and the Community Company raffle. The Oakwoods Shop will be open, as will the Sunart Café and the Woodland Pottery.
- g. Urram; the Community Council wish to welcome Louise White who is the new community well being site project lead and Natalie Rogers who is developing the Urram befriending scheme. The hospital transport service will be re-launched as the Urram Transport Service, hopefully in December 2021.

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

To contact Sunart Community Council:

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Community Council Newsletter

November 2021
Strontian Police Station



HIGHLAND & ISLANDS FIRE BRIGADE

Thank you to all the local fire-fighters who gave up their time to over-see the various firework displays in our local communities. Another successful and safe year.

A big THANK YOU to the community councils and local residents that plan and execute these wonderful events & sincere appreciation for all their hard work providing refreshments and making special memories for all the people that attended.

CRIMESTOPPERS

Unfortunately, there was an incident of vandalism to a private fence in the Glenborrodale area.

We appreciate that there is on-going disputes regarding access however deliberate vandalism to property is a crime that is taken seriously and will be fully investigated.

If anyone has any information regarding this crime, they can contact Crimestoppers ANONYMOUSLY on 0800 555 111 or using their simple anonymous online form.

LOCAL CRIME

In the past month, there has been one report of a theft from an un-occupied garden in Strontian. A reminder to all to make sure that your property is secure particularly during the winter evenings and anything of value or desirable to thief's is locked away securely.

A vehicle was also stolen from the Lochaline area but was subsequently recovered & a male suspect has been identified. He has been linked to similar crimes up North in recent weeks. A reminder to keep your vehicle locked anytime it is un-attended.

Contacting Police

For non-urgent police matters, please telephone 101 or there is an online reporting form on the Police Scotland website.