

Draft
Sunart Community Council
Minutes 14th October 2021 (Via Zoom)

1. Welcome and Apologies:

- a. Attending D Anderson (chair), E Sneddon-Hughes (Treasurer), J Hilder J Jones (Secretary)
- b. Apologies: Councillor A Baxter
- c. Fiona Christian in memoriam: Many people will be aware that Fiona passed away recently. All the members of the Community Council officially wish to record our sincere appreciation for a very dear colleague who worked tirelessly for the community during the recent COVID 19 lockdowns. Fiona was a very active member of our Community Council and we have fond memories, she will be greatly missed. A copy of the eulogy placed on the Community Council Facebook page is below.

2. Acceptance of August 2021 minutes; amendments: None

Proposed: J Hilder, **Seconded:** E Sneddon-Hughes

3. Matters arising

- a. Police matters – PC Maciver has provided a brief Newsletter which is copied below
- b. Items from previous month's minutes:
 - Heritage – the Free Church Anchor – John MacMillan has sadly passed away. It was agreed to send a card of condolence.
 - Monument Park – Scottish Water want to hold a meeting with the local residents of Monument Park. Secretary will contact Councillor Baxter as he chaired previous meetings. The recent information received from Highland Council advises against meeting in public at the present time. The Secretary will contact Scottish Water; if they wish to proceed then perhaps two meetings, a face-to-face meeting and a virtual e.g. Zoom meeting. The suggestion for dates being January 2022
 - Lunch Club – we understand that the Village Hall Committee have emailed Dorothy Gibb at the Highland Council, and received an “out of office” but no other reply. The committee is following this up and will inform J Hilder of developments. Members of the public have been enquiring about the Village Hall and there is a strength of feeling being expressed about the hall being unavailable for so long and a petition being suggested. Sunart Community Council will support the the Village Hall Committee in getting it re-opened.
 - Ariundle and Faeries Road route closures: Forestry and Land Scotland had indicated that designs for replacement for the lower bridge over the Strontian River and have been received and the preparation of tenders were to start but there is no fixed timescale. Our request for specifications for a small bridge on the Faeries Road had been passed to their Bridge Engineers and it was hoped information would be available by the end of September. Secretary to follow up progress on our request
 - 2 x Vehicle Charging points: The Sunart Community Company have received a formal proposal from HITRANS / Highland Council and a request to use some of the Community Company land behind Oakwood – details of further progress are awaited

4. Planning Matters

- a. 21/04593/FUL Demolition of house and erection of replacement house, Lochuisge, Kingairloch - Noted

5. Correspondence

Carried forward from September 2021:

- a. Electric Rally of Scotland - Noted
- b. Community Council Meetings - Dot Ferguson - Noted

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- c. Ariundle/ Faeries Road Route Closures – see item at q)
- d. ICO Renewal Confirmation of payment - Noted
- e. Transport Scotland – Consultation on Penalty Notices for Parking Enforcement – Noted and place on Facebook
- f. Flood Risk Consultation – SEPA via Dot Ferguson –Noted and placed on Facebook
- g. Strontian Church Building Time of Zoom Meeting 7pm 8th September via Zoom – Noted; 10 people attended, there was also an Open Day at the church on the 25th which was well attended. The Minister is to launch an interim “Fabric Fund” to complete priority repairs.
- h. Village Hall toilets cleaning – Invoice – Has been paid
- i. Rural Spaces – Grants to make it easier & safer to walk, wheel and cycle for rural communities in Hi-trans region - Noted
- j. Meeting in Strontian - Jane Young Lochaber Community Support Co-ordinator – Noted; J Hilder and E Sneddon-Hughes met and discussed various issues including the Village Hall access
- k. Retendering of Bus services - Noted

Current month:

- l. Highland Council, Community Council Guidance – Recording of Meetings – Noted and agreed that a copy be placed in the Meetings Folder for information
- m. FCC Scottish Action Fund – A copy to be forwarded to the Strontian Church of Scotland Trustees and Donald McCorkindale, to say there is funding available and if there is a “Save the Church Building Action Group” this might be applicable
- n. Community Council Complaints Procedure – Highland Council notification to Community Councils of the procedure to be trialled – information is on the Highland Council website.
- o. Highland Council Advice on Community Council Meetings – Alison Clark – Noted. Recommendation is to continue virtual meetings. If meetings occur then the requirements for risk assessments, safety measures, individual responsibility, and the controls and mitigations required are explained
- p. Local Government Housing & Planning Committee Survey on Short-term Lets Regulations – Noted and placed on the website
- q. Ariundle/Faeries Road route closures – D Robertson; discussed as above in Matters Arising Secretary to ask for further update
- r. Lochsheil Logistics Ltd – Bowman Skip Hire - Noted
- s. MOWI Scotland – ASC Live Event, October 2021 - Noted
- t. Bowman’s Skip Hire – Increased costs - Noted

6. Treasurer’s Report

Current account: £8,512.66; Deposit account: £10,588.58

The loan of £5,000 to the Scotstown Grazings Committee has been repaid and returned to the deposit account. The current account has received the annual grants from the various hydro schemes.

7. Any other business

- a. Footpath maintenance – a question has been raised by a member of the public about maintenance of the path between Lime Tree Lodge and Bramble Cottage, which is becoming overgrown. E Sneddon-Hughes declared an interest. The landowners are not responsible for the maintenance of the path, however periodically they do prune larger branches but have no responsibility for strimming. A suggestion made was that the Community Company Paths group might take a role on maintaining this path. J Jones will take it to the Paths Group

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- b. Resilience Plan – J Jones is reviewing the Community Resilience Plan, given the recent Covid emergency, etc. An enquiry to the Fire Service about fire hydrant locations has been made.
 - c. Xmas Lights – Unfortunately one section of the Xmas lights on the tree in the village centre has been damaged. The secretary asked that approval be given for £58.14 to purchase a replacement section. Approval given
 - d. A member of the public has enquired about siting a bench and planting feature on the land opposite the Telephone Exchange; there were two picnic benches located there previously. The Community Council members have no objection to this request. It was agreed to check whether this is part of the river bank, in which case it is held by the Community Company and their approval can be sought.
 - e. Proposed School Road Extension – the issue of congestion on School Road has been raised. J Jones and J Hilder declared an interest. The Community Company has been approached and asked to explore potential options. The Community Council are asked if they would support this request, to explore potential options, which would include obtaining a land valuation. Support was approved.
 - f. Hitrans Funding - Noted
 - g. Safeguarding Policy – the Community Council has a Safeguarding Policy which will be available on Website
 - h. Community Company is to present the proposed options for the purchase of Longrigg Woodland. The full report is available at www.sunartcommunitycompany.co.uk For a chance to express interest or chat to those who commissioned the study, Sunart residents can come along to an evening meeting at the Sunart Centre on Wednesday 3rd November at 7pm, there will be a guest speaker and refreshments will be provided. Alternatively people can request to join an online 'Zoom' meeting on the 4th November.
 - i. Bonfire Night is planned for Friday 5th November starting at 6:30pm with the fireworks display scheduled to start at 7pm. With the continuing high numbers of COVID cases in Scotland please observe social distancing.
 - j.
8. **Date of next meeting** – 11th November 2021 at 7:30pm, currently via Zoom

To contact Sunart Community Council:

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Post: John Jones

Secretary

Creag Ard

5 Longrigg Road

Strontian PH36 4HY

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Fiona Christian Eulogy: (as placed on the Community Council Facebook page)

“Last week we received the tragic news that our friend and fellow community councillor Fiona Christian had sadly lost her battle with cancer. Such was Fiona’s energy and drive that although suffering, she was still hard at work in her various roles only a few months ago. The sad news of her passing has come as such a shock and we send our heartfelt thoughts to Dave, Ella, Kay and the rest of her family.

After an active community role in Lochaline, Fiona joined the Community Council here in Sunart after relocating to the village, and her sense of humour and generosity meant she was a pleasure to work with and we will miss her plain speaking at our council meetings. Many residents will not know of Fiona – but for anyone who has collected a prescription from Strontian in the last 17 months you should know that it was with Fiona’s help that a volunteer rota was organised so that prescriptions could be delivered to those isolating during 2020 or made available for collection when Dail Mhor had to close to visitors due to the CV19 pandemic.

At the end of March 2020 as the pandemic took hold, Fiona stepped forward to take on the role of our Helping Hands Coordinator, masterminding the team of over 50 volunteers who staffed the helpline, or delivered prescriptions, Food Bank Parcels and hot Sunday lunches during the pandemic. It was Fiona who coordinated the Christmas Hampers and flowering shrub gifts for many of our elderly residents to help combat some of the isolation brought about by the pandemic. Of course – if a volunteer could not be found to make a delivery – Fiona stepped in!

Fiona personified the community spirit that makes Sunart such a lovely place to live and we will all miss her. Fiona’s family has asked that instead of flowers, donations to Maggie’s Centre Highland would be a nice way to show our condolences – we will gladly do so.”

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Community Council Newsletter

October 2021

PC N0227 Joan Maciver
Strontian Police Station

Coastguard Excellence

I wanted to express my gratitude for the local Coastguard teams, particularly in Salen and Kilchoan who have recently dealt with incidents with first class response times and shown a high level of professionalism. Their dedicated team members have unique local knowledge and experience and their commitment to volunteer is commendable.

THANK YOU!



Road Safety

Unfortunately, there has been a couple of reports of “road rage” incidents on our local roads towards cyclists and drivers. I appreciate that there can be frustrations with visitors to the area driving or cycling but please try to be patient, they are mostly driving cautiously on roads unknown to them. Prior to the Mull Rally event, I was attempting to educate drivers at the ferry points about being considerate to other road users and using lay-bys to let others pass safely on our challenging roads. Speed checks were also being carried out at various locations and will continue with pro-active patrols on the A861 & A884 from the Trunk Roads Policing Group, Fort William.

Online

For regular updates on policing in the area you can follow us on Twitter @LochabSkyePol

Crime

Recent report of the theft of 2 tyres from an un-attended trailer in the Kingairloch area - Any information about this can be reported anonymously to 0800 555 111

Crime Prevention

Whilst we have a low crime rate in the area, we can never be complacent and with the days getting shorter, we can have an increase in crimes of dishonesty. If you wish advice about securing your home or property, please visit www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information

Scottish Government guidance

The latest changes in to the Coronavirus restrictions can be found via the below link.
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-protection-levels/>