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Minutes
Sunart Community Council
7:30pm, Thursday 14th April 2022 Sunart Centre, Strontian

1. Welcome and Apologies:

- a. Attending: D Anderson (Chair), J Jones (Secretary), E Sneddon-Hughes (Treasurer), J May, J Hilder, Cllr Fanet and one member of the public
- b. Apologies: V Balnaves-Aitken.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting commenting that this was the first face-to-face meeting since the first lockdown in 2020. She also apologised for the setting as both of the community rooms had not been set up. The minutes taken by the Secretary

2. Acceptance of previous minutes (Inc. amendments) Proposed: J May, seconded: J Hilder; there were no amendments

3. Matters arising

- a. Police matters – No update at this time, the Police Newsletter is published in the De tha dol?
- b. 3b Ariundle and Faeries Route closures: on going, it is anticipated that the replacement bridge will be delivered in the second half of April
- c. 3d Road Markings A861 Roy Cattle and been informed that this is on going
- d. 3e Resilience plan – a meeting was held in the Sunart Centre with J Hilder, J Jones, C Skeath, Paul Sharples, J Tait and D Robertson. Colin Skeath has drafted a revised outline plan, which will be circulated to those attending the meeting. At this meeting was agreed that those present would form a the working group and present a plan and proposals for the Community Council to agree. The Community Council wish to thank those involved and to Colin Skeath for drafting the plan. J Hilder raised an issued that had been brought to his attention in Kilchoan, that BT are in the process of upgrading the telephone lines to fibre optic and proposing shutting down the analogue lines. Concerns have been raised, as this is a large rural area with a spread out population and is susceptible to power outages and mobile network signal not reaching all areas. Also the mobile network and was interrupted as in the recent storms. J May commented that recently on a news programme BT indicated they were reviewing this, though J Jones thought it was just for transition arrangements.
- e. 3f Recycling area – On going
- f. 7d Vehicles speed in village - the Trunk Road Policing Unit were in the beat area and have dealt with the following:
2 x Fixed Penalty Tickets for Tyres under 1.6mm; 2x Fixed Penalty Tickets for No MOT; 1x Fixed Penalty Ticket for Speeding (doing 48/30mph); 1x Report to the Procurator Fiscal for Speeding (doing 52/30mph); 2 warnings for minor road traffic offences

4. Planning Matters - None

5. Correspondence

- a. Helping Hands/ Covid on website – Dean Mann has raised the question of whether the Covid information is still appropriate on our website. Comment was made that the website information may need updating and some of the items removed. However, whilst some Covid information has been superseded the Resilience/ Emergency Plan Group had highlighted that additional information may be needed. JH will contact Dean
- b. An Cnap/ Loch Dunaich – FLS harvesting Operations March/ April 2022- Noted, this has been on Facebook. Walking in this area is restricted and no members of the public are allowed access for the period of the felling operations
- c. Wildlife Crime – Police Scotland - Noted
- d. Grant for Defibrillator – London Hearts – This item is included as a Member of the public in Polloch is refurbishing the old telephone kiosk. The BT equipment has been removed, and the aim is to install a defibrillator, so a fund raising campaign is needed. After discussion about defibrillators and maintenance it was agreed the secretary will forward this information to Polloch and contact BT to find out if the electric power is still available. Also, Bo Wilson is

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looking into sourcing another defibrillator. It is likely that a fund raising campaign will be needed.

- e. Support for EU Nationals – Cllr Fanet explained that this is about EU nationals who have been resident in the UK for many years and who are unaware that the rules have changed. Cllr Fanet is going to receive training so she can be a contact point and work with people who may be affected.
- f. i) Native Woodland Planting Proposal at Achnagavel, Laudale A884 &
ii) Achnagavel Woodland – John MacDonald
Noted and secretary to forward information to the local Police Officers.
- g. Corran Ferry Steering Group – Fare Changes - Noted
- h. Green Spaces for Good – Fields in Trust - Noted
- i. Scotland's Second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2) Consultation – Noted. It may be appropriate to check with Dean and the Corran Ferry Group to checked that the Corran Ferry is included in the review
- j. Community Led Habitat Restoration – Cllr Fanet explained about the environmental issues with the loss of seagrass in Scottish coastal waters over the last 100 years. Also, seagrass captures about 35 times the amount of CO2 than other carbon capture options. A member of the public had asked if there was something the Community Council should be doing. It was explained that COALAS is involved locally and details were passed to Cllr Fanet. For people who are interested and wish to attend, Cllr Fanet explained there is a meeting via Teams at 7pm on the 25th April 2022 and there will be two speakers able to answer any questions.
- k. Life Saving Defibrillators for your Community – Primary Care Suppliers – Noted
- l. Sunart Centre Recruitment – Centre Manager and Relief Supervisor – For anyone interested Centre Manager Ref: CHLH/2204/05 Closing Date 21st April 2022 & Relief Centre Supervisor Ref: CHLH/2204/13 closing date 28th April 2022
- m. Play park funding: email from Bryan Gregg – J Hilder has submitted an application to the Highland Council Ward Fund for some funding to replace missing swings in the children's play area on the village green.

6. Treasurer's Report

Current A/c: £12,212.52 and Deposit A/c: 10,589.30

There is a payment outstanding for cleaning Village Hall toilets and invoice awaited for the fireworks. We wish to thank Sunart Community Renewables for their offer of £7,500 donation towards the community endowment fund.

7. Any other business

- a. A member of the public asked who writes the minutes, as it is important to know. They explained that for the first 20 years copies for the De tha dol? were sent to the National Library in Edinburgh where they are bound into volumes and are available for research. It was explained that there is no minute taker and the Secretary writes the minutes, circulates them to all Community Councillors and they are placed on the noticeboard outside the Village Store and on the website. A copy of the minutes is agreed at the next meeting and sent to the Highland Council Ward Manager for filing. After discussion it was agreed that publication such as the De tha dol? can be an important resource for social research students and minutes will be annotated to show who wrote them. Also the Secretary will email the De tha dol? Committee and check if copies are still sent to the National Library in Edinburgh
- b. The Sunart Community Council – Grants scheme is available for local groups to apply and the application form is available on the website
- c. At the Resilience Group Emergency Plan meeting the issue of rising costs of electricity, fuel, food etc was highlighted. This may have potential issue for vulnerable people or households especially during the winter months. It may be that we might need to look at this situation in the coming months and our Helping Hands activities may be called upon. J Hilder has spoken to the Fort William Food Bank and we will explore options for local donations to the Food Bank. Also, for our website we will maintain information and the links to Highland Council and other services so people can have contact details to access information, advice and assistance

8. Date of next meeting – 12th May 2022 at 7:30pm, via Zoom

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