

Draft Minutes
Sunart Community Council
Thursday 8th December 2022, Sunart Centre

1. Welcome and Apologies:

- a. Attending: D Anderson (Chair), E Sneddon-Hughes (Treasurer), J Jones (Secretary), J Hilder, J Millar-Craig (Minute Taker), J May and one member of the public.
- b. Apologies: Cllr K Willis, Cllr A MacDonald, Cllr T MacLennan, Cllr S Fanet, V Balnaves-Aitken.

2. Acceptance of previous minutes (Inc. amendments)

Proposed James Hilder Seconded E Sneddon-Hughes

3. Matters arising not included in the minutes

- a. Police matters – Summary of points made in an E mail

No incidents of note for the Sunart Area however last month, there had been a theft of fuel oil from Lochaline. Relevant safety advice had been circulated in the last police newsletter which had also been published in December's De tha Dol?.

Dog excrement – point 7a SCC November minutes. Police are disappointed to hear that there is a problem with dog excrement along the Back Road by the riverbank and on the path at the back of the hotel. They will carry out some foot patrols and dog owners are reminded that they can receive a monetary fine from Highland Council. They also ask that members of the public who witness dog owners failing to take responsibility for uplift, to contact the police. JH will put out free 'poo bags' at the paths. People are asked to 'pick up' and dispose in nearby bins or take it home.

- b. Corran Ferry Consultation Event – another consultation meeting has been arranged for Monday 12th December in Strontian at the Sunart Centre. This drop-in meeting is between 4 and 7 pm. There is a short meeting for representatives of community councils preceding this from 3 till 4pm. DA to attend from Sunart Community Council. A possible fixed link is still 12 – 15 years away so it is essential that the funding is put in place to supply the new E ferries and the corresponding infrastructure. The Secretary to write a letter to Jenny Gilruth and send a copies to the other community councils in order to encourage a more unified approach to obtaining the funding.
- c. 7h The Firework Event had gone ahead and had been a fantastic evening. The quieter fireworks had proved to be much more expensive than first thought so regular ones were used.
- d. The Christmas Market had been a very successful event. Feedback and comments had been received and these were included in discussions as to how the event could be run next year.
- e. 7j. The WhatsApp group had been set up and was already proving useful.

4. Planning Matters – previously circulated

- a. 22/04730/CLP (Certificate of Lawfulness Proposed) 21/11/2022 Received 29/11/2022. Erection of house under planning permission – Noted
- b. 17/03621/FUL on the basis that the permission has been lawfully commenced and the permission is live in perpetuity - Noted

5. Correspondence

- a. Community Council meeting – West Ardnamurchan CC. A query had been made as to how other CCs convene their meetings. SCC alternated in person meetings with Zoom meetings. We have the equipment that enable 'hybrid' meetings and this is something that could be looked at for the future. Secretary will reply to the Email.
- b. Re –Connection re paths around the village – FLS – R Layden, Regional Visitor Services Manager, is to attend the SCC January meeting. The Secretary is to write to him beforehand detailing the problems and points for discussion. Issues to include – replacement of Ariundle river Bridge and the small bridge in Fairy Walk, repair /restoration of a variety of board walks including in Phemie's, repair the bridge on the route between Polloch and Glenfinnan, restore

- paths around Badger Point and address problems of access to the Polloch View Point car park.
- c. Confirmation of Elected Community Councillors – Dot Ferguson. The Secretary had already replied to the request for up-to-date information on the number of elected and co-opted members on the SCC.
 - d. Technology Enable Care Near Me – a flyer for the important ‘Near Me’ service had been received but it was pointed out that some of the information may be incorrect. ‘Near Me’ is a service that enables ‘face to face’ appointments with consultants via the Internet. Dail Mhor is named as a potential connection point. JH to check that this is the case.
 - e. Corran Ferry Consultation: 12th December – Cllr Fanet – See Matters Arising 3b.
 - f. Query on the Polloch phone box and defibrillator. The Community Council had already purchased the box from the GPO and so there shouldn’t be issues around contacting the GPO for permissions.
 - g. Licensing for B and Bs and Guest Houses – this process has been paused by the Scottish Government.

6. Treasurer’s Report

Current Account £10,810.07p Reserve £3,104.78p

A number of monies had been set aside or agreed to:

£3000 for the hardship fund, £7,500 for the endowment fund, £490 already given to resilience group (out of £1000), £1000 for the phone box defibrillator.

£400 was to be given towards the AHS French Language Cinema trip. (ESH to send a confirmatory E mail)

7. Any other business

- a. Enquiry re grant in support of the AHS School Trip. The trip to London was now coming in more expensive than had first been planned for. The enquirer was to be encouraged to complete a grant request form. The grant however was agreed in principle. JH to contact the enquirer.
- b. Sunart Community Census and Questionnaire – two copies have now been issued to each household although every person in a household is encouraged to complete and return the form, either the paper version or online. This is to be done before by December 31st.
- c. Sunart Community Renewables – cheques will be issued shortly. The sum of £150 Cost of Living payment is being made to every permanent household. How it is used is up to the recipients. It could be banked but could also be donated to charity e.g. Lochaber foodbank. If the cheque is not cashed the money will be used to fund other local projects.
- d. The Community Company has received a grant of £3,600 from *Inspiring Scotland* supported by the Scottish Government Rural and Island Communities Idea into Action Fund, which is to be used to help facilitate the holding of meetings to discuss and thereby move forward projects such as The Men’s Shed, Urram, building of a shed in the show field. A project organiser to be appointed and paid for from the budget.
- e. Urram – update
 - the delayed report should be out in the next few weeks. The project is still at a discussion stage but it has become clear that the Village Hall, Care Home and Doctors Surgery will all need to be taken down in the next few years. The critical consideration is what could be built or rebuilt on the site. The NHS would like an improved Doctors Surgery, any new village hall would have to be built by the community but the mix of housing and care facilities on the site remains unclear given changes in policy and funding challenges.
 - Urram -The Helping Hands Befriending service is going well and has exceeded it’s targets for visits etc.
 - Urram - The funding for a new electric vehicle for the Hospital Transport Service has been granted which will make a total of two vehicles for this service. Further volunteer drivers would be made very welcome.
 - Urram – it is hoped to appoint an administrator / co-ordinator. This post will be advertised soon.
 - Anyone wishing to work in ‘Care’, even for a few hours a week, are very much asked to come forward. A ‘drop in’ event is arranged for Monday 12th Dec. at Dail Mhor Care Home, 4 – 6.pm. to look at the variety of ways in which people can be involved.

At the end of the meeting, James Hilder explained that due to other commitments and, that while he still wished to be involved, he would be standing down at the January meeting as a community councillor. A very heartfelt vote of thanks was given to James for all his hard work.

8. Date of next meeting – Thursday 12th January 2023 at 7:30pm, via Zoom