

Draft Minutes
Sunart Community Council
7:30pm, Thursday 11th August 2022 Sunart Centre

1. Welcome and Apologies:

Attending: D Anderson (Chair), E Sneddon-Hughes (Treasurer), J Jones (Secretary), J Hilder, V Balnaves-Aitken, J Millar-Craig (Minute Taker) and one member of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Sarah Fanet, Cllr Kate Willis, Cllr MacDonald, PC McIvor, J May

Minutes prepared by J Millar-Craig and the Secretary

2. Acceptance of previous minutes (Inc. amendments)

Proposed: E. Sneddon-Hughes Seconded: J Hilder Amendments: None

Separate Minutes of Addition Meeting 23rd June 2022: Proposed: J Hilder; Seconded: D Anderson

3. Matters arising

- a. Police matters – Email update received with apologies from PC Campbell saying the local Police Officers will be unable to attend meetings this month. Overall it has been a good month; there are few more tourists about in the last week or two, which is challenging for road users. Not a great deal to report in terms of crime

The schools return next week and the local officers are committed to going into the schools more this year now that restrictions have been lifted. It is important to engage with pupils, teachers and staff and discuss various topics, for both primary and secondary schools, such as social media, mobile devices, bullying, stranger danger, alcohol and drugs misuse to name a few. If there are any topics that any parents think needs attention then let PC Campbell or PC Maciver know and they will try and accommodate the requests.

PC Campbell has spoken Inspector Campbell about the possibility of arranging another ward meeting, with a couple elected members from each of the Community Councils to provide the opportunity to meet with Inspector Campbell, discuss questions about policing in the area, Police Scotland's force objectives and the plans for local policing going forward. Action: Secretary to email PC Campbell to confirm and offer a Sunart Community Council venue to host the event.

- b. Item 3a) J Hilder explained that he had written to Don Esson at Highland Council who had replied. However, Don Esson's reply did not address the points raised and was inadequate so this matter will be pursued. Also, the situation has evolved so second letter requesting a case review has been sent.
- c. Item 5f) Walking Away from Highland Council, Andrew Baxter the donation of £200 agreed at the last meeting carried forward. Action: Treasurer
- d. A plaque for Fiona Christian has been purchased and was shown to people attending. The Secretary will arrange for Men's Shed members to mount it on the bench outside the Oakwood Visitor Centre, and the Chair will inform Dave Christian and the family
- e. Sunart Primary School Funding Request – was approved at the additional meeting on 23rd June 2022
- f. Urram letter of support, has been sent

4. Planning Matters – previously circulated

- a. 22/02888/FUL Erection of agricultural building, 6 Anaheilt, Strontian – Noted
- b. 22/03198/FUL Alterations and extensions Providence, Strontian- Noted

5. Correspondence

- a. Dol tha dol? Invoice for advert - Invoice paid
- b. Glencripesdale Nature Reserve – Sunart and Morvern Community Councils representatives to be on management board. An email received from RSBP local ranger re the advert for a Site Manager, Sunart Reserves was received. The salary band is in the range of £33,600 - £37,275 and the link and details have been posted on our Facebook page
- c. Community Resilience Briefing 01/07/2022- Highland Council, Link to this website is posted on our Website
- d. Mikey's Line Free Training- E-mail regarding free Mental Health First Aid course and free Mental Health Toolbox talks for Lochaber area - Noted

- e. Help for dissertation on e-democracy – Scotland CC – Noted Secretary to respond
- f. Ariundle Woods Car Park – members of the public had raised the issue regarding the stones in the car park being hidden by long grass. Forestry and Land Scotland have agreed to trim the area.
- g. Community Resilience IT- Scottish Government request that a local leaflet be produced – noted. The suggestion for the Helping Hands telephone line to be restarted has been made by the Resilience Sub-committee: this would involve a monthly fee of £7 for the software that would enable a caller to be put through to the contact person on the local community resilience rota. Support for this was proposed by Secretary and seconded by Treasurer. The local Community Resilience group also want to make up ‘grab bags’ for emergencies and the Community Council have previously agreed to fund this. There is a meeting for members of our local Community Resilience subcommittee to be held on 30th August and a meeting in Fort William regarding the cost of living crisis on 26th August.
- h. Sunart Community Council – Community Benefit Payment SSE Loch Uisge, Kingairloch – the annual payment £2173.86 has been received.
- i. RSPB -Site Manager Sunart Reserve. See item b above
- j. Smarter Tourist Association Newsletter received – noted
- k. The Workshop Lochaber Hope - Cllr Fanet - Noted

6. Treasurer’s Report

Current Account: £13,546.39 Deposit Account: £10,592.68

The Fireworks paid invoice has been received and paid. Strontian Community School Building Ltd invoice has been paid.

7. Any other business

- a. Access ramp at the Keystore, Village Store – a member of the public raised the issue of difficulty for some people to access to village store e.g. wheelchair users. We are informed that there is alternative access to the store via the path, which is in front of the neighbouring house, to the left hand side of the bus shelter. Signs indicating the alternative route will be displayed
- b. Christmas Fair and Christmas tree lights. Discussed. Date likely to be 26th Nov.
- c. Car Charging Points - Member of the public queried when car charges might be installed. Highland Council to be contacted for information.
- d. State of boardwalk and path in Phemie’s Wood, the Bridge in Ariundle, and other points with regard to FLS were discussed. A suggestion is to ask if the bridge signs might be amended to something like “accessible but at user’s own risk”. It has been noted that the boardwalk in Phemies Woodland path is not to be replaced and already the ground has become boggy and churned up and there is need for the replacement of these structures. The state of a number of sites around the village re cutting back bushes, trees, ditches was also discussed and a member of the public raised concern that the path that runs beside the “swimming pool” on the Strontian river has been neglected for many years and we are informed, is a major rubbing point with residents. Also, we are informed there is also an issue with the car park area on the road down to Polloch being very over grown. Given the number of issues raised the suggestion is we request a meeting with the Area FLS manager. The Secretary to email David Robertson and obtain the details of whom to contact and formally request a meeting.
- e. Grass cutting within the village had already been carried out after a request from the Community Council. However the ditches on Anaheilt are now so overgrown people walking on the road needing to step off for oncoming traffic risk falling in the ditches. Secretary to contact Roy Cattle
- f. The Bottle bank in the village centre has been emptied but new labels are now needed. M Secretary to contact Highland Council.
- g. The Blytheswood clothing bank had been removed, however, there is the Ragbag charity bank located near bicycle shelter at Ardnamurchan High School car park.
- h. Village Hall – a member of the public raised query re current status of hall. We are aware the Highland Council are involved in the upgrading of fire alarms in the hall. After discussion the question was raised whether a letter of support and offer of any assistance by Community Council might be of help to move things on. Secretary to action

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