

Draft Minutes
Sunart Community Council
7:30pm, Thursday 8th June 2023 Village Hall, Strontian

1. Welcome and Apologies:

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

2. Acceptance of previous minutes (Inc. amendments)

Proposer: J Jones Seconded: D Anderson

3. Matters arising not included in the minutes

- a. Police matters – Defibrillators – The Secretary had emailed the Police with the information on the siting of defibrillators, as per their request. They will collate all the Community Council returns and distribute the list.
- b. Item 5c – Potentially Dangerous Trees – ongoing. Boundaries still being checked.
- c. Item 5g – Discarded Blue Rope – This issue had been forwarded to COALAS.
- d. Item 5i – A861 Passing Places Signage – the Secretary had contacted the four local councillors urging the completion of the works to the A861 – finishing the rest of the road, tarring passing places, 30mph signs etc.
- e. The Chair had emailed Kate Lackie (Chief Executive Officer, Highland Council) regarding a local youngster who travels daily to Glencoe House at Lochaber High School. Her parents normally have to provide all the transport. While the ferry was off, Highland Council had provided a taxi for the pupil to travel from the passenger ferry, Nether Lochaber side, to the school and back. This support was withdrawn as soon as the ferry returned, much to the dismay of the family. Cllr Fanet texted Kate Lackie seeking a response.
- f. Item 7g – Paths Around Strontian – The Secretary had met with Robbie Layden, Forestry and Land Scotland, to walk through and discuss the condition and maintenance of paths within Phemie’s wood. FLS will maintain the main path, but it will be up to the community to fund the provision and maintenance of boardwalks and auxiliary paths such as the lower path. It was suggested that contact should be made with the Community Company Paths Group and to also contact local contractors who have previously donated materials etc.
- g. Item 7d – Dail Mhor – The recently received Feasibility Study had shown that the facility would never be developed as a care home but it was still felt that it could possibly be a respite home. Urram are still working on this. This was felt to be a much-needed local resource.

4. Planning Matters

None

5. Correspondence

- a. Merging of Acharacle and Morvern Medical Practices – the new doctor, Dr Trudy Spencer, would be joining the clinical team on 1st July 2023. The three GPs would then all work across the Morvern and Ardnamurchan peninsulas. Other aspects of the merger would take place in the months after the start of Dr Spencer.
- b. SSE Kingairloch Funds – the treasurer went through the ways in which the Community Council had made use of the grant – fireworks, playground works etc. This detailed information would be returned to SSE.
- c. New Lochaber Times Reporter – the new Lochaber Times reporter, Jamie Willis, had been in touch with the Secretary to introduce himself to the Community Council and to say that if there was anything that we felt the paper should cover, then to let him know.
- d. Corran Ferry Steering Group – this group had met on Monday 29th May. Included in those discussions were the answers to a number of technical questions concerning the proposed E ferry. The next meeting was set for Tuesday 4th July.
Cllr Fanet said that the LUF bid was still going to be placed by HC but that a number of other options of funding were also being looked at. It was important that all Community Councils were united in the efforts looking for funding for ferries. She expressed the opinion that with the sum of

money that would be needed to improve the local roads infrastructure to accompany the building of a fixed link, it rendered this option a very long way off.

A survey regarding local public opinion as to the nature of any future crossing was being prepared by the Joint Community Council Group.

The Camusnagaul passenger ferry / local bus service had proved popular while the ferry had been away. The request to keep this service was being met for just now.

- e. Lochaber Stakeholder Event – this had taken place on June 6th. The meeting was to show the intended services which would be provided by the new Belford Hospital. (See AOB)

6. Treasurer's Report

Current Account: £14,301.41 Reserve Account: £3,119.25

Due to the quantity of money in the current account, it was agreed that a sum e.g. £10,000, should be moved to an easy access higher interest account. Proposed J Jones, Seconded D Anderson.

7. Any other business

- a. Corran Ferry – this had been discussed at 5d.
- b. A member of the public gave a report of the Lochaber Stakeholder Event. There were to be single, ensuite rooms, a place of safety for those with mental health issues, a rehabilitation area and some 'halfway' houses. Concern had been expressed that there was not to be an endoscopy unit. The old Belfort building will close.
The Chair expressed concern that a helipad could not be factored in and there seemed to be a lack of parking. Also, the proposed direct link between the medical centre and the hospital was not now possible to due to the building of the new houses.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 10th August 2023 at 7:30pm, Village Hall, Strontian