

Minutes of Sunart Community Council
Meeting held Thursday 13th April 2023 (19.30) Village Hall Strontian

1. Welcome and Apologies:

- a. Attending: D Anderson (Chair), E Sneddon-Hughes (Treasurer), J May, V Balnaves-Aitken
Three members of the public
- b. Apologies: J Jones (Secretary) J Millar Craig (Minute taker)

2. Acceptance of previous minutes (Inc. amendments)

Proposed: E Sneddon-Hughes Seconded: D Anderson

3. Matters arising not included in the minutes

- a. Police matters – Corran Ferry Services [OFFICIAL] Police want to reassure you that they are working with other agencies such as the Ambulance Service, Highland Council Roads Department as much possible to attempt to manage the situation as best as possible, and will be patrolling the A861 Ardgour to Drimsallie route along with the Lochailort route as much as they can in the next few weeks.

4. Planning Matters – previously circulated

- a. 23/01193/FUL Erection of house and polytunnel (amended prop 09/00243FUL) 42 Bellsgrave Strontian PH36 4JB - Noted

5. Correspondence

- a. Volunteer Managers Interactive Workshop 27th April - to be held at Voluntary Action Lochaber, An Drochaid, Claggan Road Fort William 10.00am - 12.30pm Booking essential
dani.drummon@valochaber.org
- b. Lochaber Links Wards 11 & 21 – Useful Information Noted
- c. Zurich Insurance – Coronation Events Insurance - Noted, risk assessment to be carried out for proposed event on 13 May 2023 Strontian
- d. Car park Charges, Ariundle Woodland – Reply from NatureScot - Chris Donald has confirmed there is an agreement in place with Forestry Land Scotland, car parking charges will apply predominantly aimed at visitors
- e. Corran Ferry Steering Group Meeting via zoom with Murry Bain 27th March 2023 Notes from Dean Mann on behalf of the CC - The meeting lasted over 2 hours. Some very important issues were discussed for potential action as follows:

Key points:

- The MV Corran is unlikely to be back in service immediately and it will be weeks until it returns (hopefully by end April but TBD). Easter will be a big test and risk for some vulnerable people on the peninsula. Resilience issues arise.
- Maintenance costs and service disruption are likely to increase due to the age of the ferries in the coming years until replaced.
- The detailed design is basically complete with a huge amount of work and consultation BUT There is NO budget (established/planned/earmarked) for the replacements. The funding sought from Transport for Scotland/Govt failed and the ferry service is NOT included in the SPTR2 report, although a land bridge to Mull is mentioned!
- Highland council plan to apply for discretionary funding up to £50m in April/May and if they succeed have to find some £20m extra from the Council which there is some indication would happen if funding is obtained. It could now be a further year or more to get these funds, the danger is that this delays the start of the ferry project and so loses its place in the ferry build program with CMAL.
- f. Jazz Concert – Sam Braysher - As this is a private individual, funding has not been approved
- g. Consultation: Highland Council Local Transport Strategy - A combined response is to be prepared via James Hilder on behalf of Sunart Community Company
- h. Spring into Digital with Interactive Tech Event – NHS Highland Technologyenabledcare - an interactive and informational event about digital technologies will be hosted 27 April at Leonardo Hotel Inverness to help people live safely, happily and independently at home. This

event will be of interest to everyone, particularly patients, service users, family members, carers, health care staff and third sector staff.

- i. Corran Ferry: Staying in touch with Communities – Cllr Fanet has our community and best interests in place working closely with the HC to find the best solution to the current ongoing ferry issue.
- j. Bowman Price Increases- Hannah Bowman - SCC have received notification that there will be an increase in all rates from April 01 2023 of 5.5%
- k. Community Benefit Payment – Carnoch & Glen Tarbet Hydro Schemes - payments have been received

6. Treasurer's Report

Current Account: £15,279.79

Reserve Account: £ 3,113.79

7. Any other business

- a. Corran Ferry - 70 people attended the meeting with Kate Lackie and Tracey Urry (speakers from HC) Agenda and minutes attached under separate cover explaining the HC measures and commitment to setting up a small working group to improve the communication strategy.
- b. Sunart CC – Grant Application- Rowena Henderson Sunart Community Company - the grant application has been approved for a coronation/street celebration
- c. Dail Mhor House - A member of the public has queried when Dail Mhor will be reopening. James Hilder, Chair of Urram reported that Karen-Ann Wilson from NHS Highland (District Manager, Lochaber) attended the Urram Board on 28th March and reported that with the current staff shortage, staff training for new recruits, the lengthy recruitment process as well as the completion of the PVG, a reopening date cannot be made at this present time. JH has received assurances from NHH senior management that Dail Mhor will be reopened for respite care as soon as staff coverage allows.
- d. Erection of three dwellings Ariundle - Shaun Corrigan presented drawings of a proposed site at the Ariundle for three dwellings, while awaiting application details from the HC, this has been noted
- e. HC Travel - The Highland Council is updating its Local Transport Strategy, which sets out how it will manage and modernise the transport network across the region in the coming years. The Case for Change is the first stage in this process and is about gathering evidence; this consultation seeks your views on it. The feedback we receive now will be used to help develop a draft of the updated Local Transport Strategy, which will then itself go out for consultation later in the year. James Hilder to provide a combined response on behalf of Urram and Sunart Community Company.
- f. The SCC would like to forward their condolences for the loss of two long standing Strontian residents, John Ferguson of Carnoch and John Tildsley a former resident and long standing Director of the Sunart Community Company.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 11th May 2023 at 7:30pm, Village Hall Strontian