

**Minutes**  
**Sunart Community Council**  
**7.00pm, Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024 Village Hall**

**1. Welcome and Apologies:**

Attending: J Jones (Chair), J millar-Craig (Secretary), A Gainsford (Treasurer), C Hunter, M Stewert, A Herrman.

Apologies: P Adams

**2. Acceptance of previous minutes (inc. amendments)**

Two amendments were made: in item 2. 'Invnevis' changed to 'Invernevis', Item 11e 'Annaheilt' changed to 'Anaheilt'.

Proposed: J Jones      Seconded: C Hunter

**3. Matters Arising**

- a. Co-option of Alex Evans – not present, to be invited to next meeting. **JJ to action.**
- b. Dog Fouling 11b. – Police have spoken to a couple of residents regarding letting their dogs run free outwith their garden and off the lead. They are also going to ask the local nursery to make posters asking people to pick up after their dogs. Witnesses are asked to come forward if they have evidence of dog fouling. The Community Council is going to provide free 'poo bags' placed at strategic points in the village. **JJ/ AH to purchase bags and JJ make a sign for the dispensers.**
- c. Follow Up Belford Action Group -letters 6c. – Secretary had sent letters on behalf of the Community Council. Standard replies had been received. Others had also sent them as individuals and received the same responses.
- d. Parking Charges Ariundle 4g. – Letter agreed. To be posted to CEO of FLS. **Secretary to action.**
- e. Ariundle and Faeries Walk – Licence 6b. JJ had E mailed David Roberston of FLS. A contractor is currently being sought who can meet license and insurance requirements. The small bridge also needs replacing. It is expected that a request for funding will be sent to Sunart Community Council and Sunart Community Benevolent Fund. It is anticipated that costs will be several thousands of pounds.
- f. State of Road – Anaheilt 11.e. JJ had spoken to the local road staff and more patching had been done. However, the whole surface is desperately in need of replacing. There is also a lot of gravel build up along the edges of the roads creating a hazard for cycles and motorcycles. **JJ to contact Highland Council.**
- g. Change in start time for Community Council Meetings – the change of start time of the meeting from 7.30pm to 7.00pm, is to be given a three-month trial period after which it will be reviewed. A note is to be placed on Facebook re new start time, a couple of days before the next meeting – **AH to action.**
- h. Presentation by KAW – it had been noted that since the last meeting, an Ardnamurchan specific advert for care staff still had not been placed on the NHS website. KAW had also agreed that she would speak to one particular indivual after the meeting. This had not yet happened.

**4. Police Matters**

An email had come in from the Police and is summarised below:

- Speed surveys are to be carried out on the A884 and speed checks are to be carried out in all the villages on the peninsula.
- Visits are to be made to all Primary Schools and Ardnamurchan High School before the holidays.
- Police are aware of the problems surrounding the ferry queues on both sides of the Corran Narrows. They are going to speak to the ferry manager and Highland Council.
- The public are asked to be extra vigilant over the 'holiday season' as the increase in people visiting the peninsula gives opportunistic criminals greater chances to commit crime. Windows, doors, outbuildings etc should be securely locked and surveillance cameras used where possible. Let the police know if you see anything suspicious.

**5. Planning Matters – none received.**

## 6. Correspondence

- a. Urram, Housing Needs Survey Report for West Lochaber -The Housing Needs report had been received outlining current local housing issues and longer-term needs. The document will be relevant in further discussions regarding village development etc.
- b. Lochaber District Planning Group – CH is the Sunart Community Council representative but had been unable to attend the meeting. Her name needs to be added to their E-mailing list. **CH to action.**
- c. Scottish Community Development Centre - Conference – noted.
- d. Empty Homes Advice Service + slides – noted.
- e. Community Council Guidance DRAFT – form for CC members to complete. This had been filled in by a number of the community councillors.
- f. Glencripesdale RSPB Reserve – Izzy Baker has been invited to the next Community Council meeting to give a brief presentation on the reserve and the plans that the RSPB has for it's future. Jack Fleming is also to be asked to attend – **JJ to action.**

## 7. Dail Mhor

JJ had written to Pamela Cremin. JH and Urram are still pushing for and are trying to coordinate, a meeting between all peninsula Community Councils, local Highland Councillors, NHS and other interested parties. Also see item 3h. A request was made that Urram should try and keep people more up to date with what is happening with Dail Mhor etc.

## 8. Corran Ferry

The various proposals and information regarding the Corran Ferry Crossing, new ferries, new infrastructure etc were on the Highland Council website. All E mails and communication to be redirected to the Secretary. **JJ to action.**

## 9. Treasurer's Report

Current Account: £14,321.35      Deposit Account: £3,159.78

New signatories are now sorted.

One payment to be made to Sunart Community Company for £150 - this is to cover 50% of a fuel poverty payment. Invoice from ALI Energy. Payment agreed by meeting.

Kirsty Macintyre has agreed to review and check the year-end accounts for the same cost as last year. Agreed by meeting.

## 10. Any Other Business

- a. A member of the public had been asking as to whether the play park equipment could be replaced/ renovated/ improved. The new playground at Acharacle had been the result of a lot of fund raising and had cost many tens of thousands of pounds. It was explained that even just fixing the swings in Strontian would be very expensive. Suggestions made to make the park a pleasanter place to visit included repainting the equipment, cutting back some of the conifers, replacing the bench and building flowerbeds. **JJ to check with regard to painting the equipment.**
- b. Trees at the bottle bank also need cutting back. It was agreed that JJ should cut them back again. **JJ to action**
- c. The phone box in the village had been recommissioned.
- d. It was agreed to contact Bowman's skip hire/ Highland Council with regard to getting an extra bin for the village centre. It was hoped that Highland Council would empty it. **JJ to action**

**Date of Next Meeting- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00pm, Strontian Village Hall for the Annual General Meeting AGM and 7:30pm for the monthly Community Council meeting**