

South Harris Community Council – Minutes of Meeting 17th September 2018

1. Apologies – Caroline Chaffer, Lisa MacDonald, Billy Macfarlane
2. Present – Alan Ross, Stephen MacKinnon, Neil MacLean, Marion Morrison, Hamish Taylor, John MacLean, Kenny MacLeod, Kathryn Campbell
3. Minutes were proposed by Alan Ross and seconded by Marion Morrison
4. Matters Arising

4.1 Roads – Firstly, John confirmed that work had taken place on the Strond road verges which has improved conditions. Kathryn raised the issue of the road at Northton which was tarred recently but not lined and so this may be dangerous as people unfamiliar may not realise it is not a full double track road. It was also pointed out that the council had removed a fuel tank from Leverburgh Pier which had been pointed out to them on their trip around South Harris.

4.2 HHP – Alan met with them recently. They said they were interested in the land at Kintulavaig for private dwellings rather than for rent, as well as being interested to look at the site we have identified on the Peat Road. He has heard nothing further from them and will forward to Councillor Mitchell to chase up a response.

4.3 Challenge Fund – Alan announced that we had been awarded £2,000 to help with the Leverburgh School Junior Football Club towards equipment etc, with Marine Harvest also donating £1,000. Alan spoke about the potential in the future of linking up the football club, Rebecca Passmore's Junior Running Club, and the fitness gym which will be within the new Community Hub in order to access greater funding opportunities. There was a discussion about the pitch at Leverburgh School about future development with ideas such as the field being made longer and a proper running track being put in place. It was agreed by everyone that this should be looked at whilst at the same time being mindful of not jeopardising the South Harris Show which takes place on the school pitch. Geese on the pitch is still a problem - Kenny will give Alan a contact for the person involved in the culling of geese.

4.4 Scottish Hebrides Documentary – Hamish has not heard anything more about this.

4.5 BT Poles – Hamish gave an update saying that the job above Lingerbay has only been half done with one span of cable not being hung and is lying on ground. 3 poles at the Rodel end of the road have not been looked at. 2 or 3 stays should have been tightened. The job in Finsbay has not been looked at. Hamish will liaise with Councillor Finnegan regarding the status of these unfinished jobs.

5. Gunnera – Alan has asked that everyone report any areas of gunnera needing removed in South Harris to him within the next week so he can pass on to Gordon Cumming.
6. Paisley Sisters – A sub-committee of Hamish, John, and Kenny will proceed with the next step of this project.
7. Lobster Hatchery – Everyone Neil spoke to locally at the Pier was supportive of this idea. Neil reported that everything went quiet with the lobster hatchery he was in touch with in Orkney and which he was ready to take a party up to visit. Alan will do some more research and will work with Neil. The benefit of bringing new jobs to the area was highlighted.
8. School Community Hub Project – Alan gave an update saying that progress is ongoing. Between £7,000 and £8,000 has been raised by the steering group itself so far with the recent quiz in the hall raising £750. A space has been set aside for a post office in the building. Tigh Innse Gall will be helping with funding applications after the building is acquired. It was agreed by everyone in this meeting that SHCC should contribute £500 to the school project.
9. Rodel Toilets – Hamish and Neil will look at constructing an honesty box to go in the Rodel toilets that SHCC are responsible for to raise donations.
10. Port of Leverburgh – Nothing new is known about the status of this. Alan will speak to Ken MacDonald to ask if he is the solicitor acting for this.
11. Kelp Harvesting – It was discussed how disastrous this would be for fishing communities. Marion pointed out that the Press and Journal was reporting that the Scottish Government will reject the proposal to license Kelp Harvesting.
12. Cash Machines – Alan urged everyone to sign 'Which' petition he had emailed out against the reduction of free cash machines. Kenny said he had recently been made aware of a new law protecting rural cash machines from charges.

Next Meeting Date – 3rd December 2018

