

South Harris Community Council – Minutes of Meeting 11th February 2019

Present – Alan Ross, Stephen MacKinnon, Hamish Taylor, John MacLean, Kenny MacLeod, Councillor Cunningham

1. Apologies – Caroline Chaffer, Lisa MacDonald, Billy Macfarlane, Neil MacLean, Marion Morrison, Kathryn Campbell, Councillor Mitchell, Councillor Finnegan

2. Minutes were proposed by Kenny MacLeod and seconded by John MacLean

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Geese – Crofters are due to meet with SNH soon to discuss a geese cull. Kenny will be at this meeting and will raise issue of geese on pitch. He will report back at next meeting.

3.2 HHP – They have been asking for landowners to get in touch about available land. There is confusion over whether this applies only to community trust landowners. They have not replied to Alan's suggestions about land in Leverburgh. Councillor Mitchell had been taking this issue forward but is off work on sick leave at the moment, so Councillor Cunningham will email HHP to try and get a response.

3.3 Local Asset Management Pilot Scheme – Alan submitted SHCC's response to the Council.

3.4 Visitor Levy – At last week's meeting of the Harris Forum it was discovered that SHCC was the only group to have come to a decision regarding this issue with one group undecided and the others still to discuss.

3.5 Gritting – The group asked Councillor Cunningham for an update. He said that the Council's response is still the same and no change in gritting policy is likely.

4. Additional Matters

4.1 Priority of Projects – Alan explained that at last week's meeting of the Harris Forum it was decided that each group should come up with a list of numbered priority projects that they would like the new Development Officer to take forward during his two years in post. This will be discussed at the next Harris Forum meeting with the Forum as a whole deciding on the Development Officer's priorities.

It was decided the priorities should be: 1. Development of Leverburgh Hub; 2. Paisley Sisters Project and Gaelic Poet Trail; 3. Lobster Hatchery; 4. Leverburgh Pier Marina Project; 5. Millpond Clean-up Project.

4.2 Contributions to Community Groups – It was agreed that £400 should be donated to Leverburgh Moorings Association for their project to improve walkways

on the drying out area at Leverburgh Pier. It was also decided to donate £100 towards transport for the Pensioners dinner.

4.3 Boundary Commission – A question was asked about how the Boundary Commissions' efforts to reduce the overall number of councillors could affect Harris. One solution members of SHCC put forward would be to reduce the number of Harris Councillors to two but remove the ward of South Lochs from being included with Harris.

4.4 New Lighting in Leverburgh – Marion Morrison sent in a comment that the visibility is very poor where the new LED lamp posts have been installed in the Kintulavaig area of Leverburgh with the lights only lighting the road and not the pavements. Councillor Cunningham will raise this with Tech Services.

4.5 Northton Sea Wall – Councillor Cunningham raised this issue again with the Council and was told that they had responsibility until 1996 but then Scottish Water took over responsibility when they built a septic tank there. They suggested that Malcolm MacPhail could be contacted at Scottish Water.