

## SOUTH HARRIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016

#### 1. Present

Alan Ross	Chair
Marion Morrison	Treasurer
Hamish Taylor	
Kenneth Macleod	
Francis Macleod	
Steven MacKinnon	

Cllr. P Maclean

Cllr C Macdonald

#### 2. Apologies

John R Maclean

Morag Mackenzie

Lisa Macdonald

Kathryn Campbell

Neillie Maclean

#### 3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the 8<sup>th</sup> February were read and approved.

#### 4. Matters Arising

(1) Police Scotland Questionnaire – this had been copied to all members and was considered and AAR will complete and submit the response

(2) Lobster Hatchery – AAR has contacted the Hatchery in Orkney and spoken to Dawson Shearer who is in charge. He will be happy to meet with a delegation appointed by SHCC and advise concerning the

setup in Orkney. The hatchery does not get into production until May and it would seem sensible to wait until after then to make the visit. Neillie is contacting Mr. Shearer and AAR will be speaking to Paul Finnegan to get funding for the trip sorted out.

- (3) LMS Steering Group- AAR reported –over the last two months there have been numerous meetings. Representatives of the LMS Steering Group are having a meeting with the Chief Executive Malcolm Burr on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> at the school when it is hoped that matters can be clarified. Funding applications will be completed and lodged and a provisional planning application will also have to be made. The applications may have to be in the name of SHCC prior to a community trust company being formed. This was agreed.
- (4) Harris Plan – this has now been completed and AAR will circulate a copy, Hamish and AAR went to the latest meeting and it was made clear that we felt that it was important that the matters put forward should not be viewed in the context of the interest of the Groups putting forward the proposals but in the context of the interests of the Harris community as a whole.
- (5) Joint CC meetings – AAR reported - running on from 4 above the proposal of holding joint CC meetings was put forward to NHCC and SCC and have been agreed. This will be in the form of delegates from each CC meeting to discuss and agree ( if possible) a joint approach to issues which do or could affect the whole of Harris. It is hoped that these joint meetings would be extended to include representatives from the Trusts ( North and West Harris). This was also mentioned in the context of West Harris Trust having someone attend our meetings as there is no one from their area formally on the CC. These issues were discussed and there was unanimous agreement.
- (6) HVS and HDL –AAR reported - this again follows on from 4. A letter sent out by Jillian Scott-Forest on her retirement from HVS was read. It is clear that with changes in the relationship between the third sector and the government it is vital to have a strong board of directors running HVS if not Harris will lose out. Even before receiving the letter it was intended to discuss this matter as it is important ( even vital) for the CCs to be involved in these bodies. As far as HDL is

concerned the only way of ensuring that it is a whole of Harris company is for all the CCs to have representation.

- (7) CC Seminar –AAR reported – he had attended a seminar for CCs in Stornoway and at the end it was expressed that this should take place 4 times a year. AAR had agreed with this as it was clear from discussions prior to the formal event that there are issues which relate to more than our own area and a discussion with other CCs could lead to a much stronger voice having to be heard in Stornoway. Again we will need to discuss representation at these events as and when they arise.
- (8) Out of Hours Service – AAR reported - this follows on nicely from 7 above. Despite what has been said in the past Harris is not the only place complaining about the current cover ( as AAR found out at the CC seminar). Despite putting forward proposals which appeared very sensible and practical ( originally penned by Hamish) these are being rejected ( for the moment). The IJB will be taking over the OOH situation this month so further discussions will take place.
- (9) Ferry service – AAR reported -At a meeting of the HTF it was put forward by Robert Morrison for Calmac that the problems experienced when the Heb was “ off route” should not happen this coming winter. The position was confirmed in an email that the Heb would only be away for 2/3 weeks for servicing. Everyone cheered but too soon as another email from Head Office said the very opposite. This has been questioned but AAR was not aware of any response.
- (10) Rodel toilets –AAR reported - working party needed to refurbish these before the season gets into full swing. This was agreed. Cllr Macdonald reported that she had been in communication with David Macleod trying to sort out the ownership of the toilets but to date nothing had happened.
- (11) Tarbert Marina and pontoons –AAR reported - you will all have read about the success of the application for funding for this project having been successful – congratulations are in order. However, there is some concern over the way in which the success has been advertised as it appears that the project is being heralded as the last

step in a “ pontoon project for Harris”. There is concern that our proposals for pontoons at Rodel and for a marina project at Leverburgh could be adversely affected by these comments. A letter in response had been drafted by HT and AAR and published. Cllr Macdonald questioned whether the original letter had been fully understood as it related only to the east coast of Harris. It was felt that no further clarification in the Press was needed.

- (12) Superfast broadband – AAR reported -this was raised by Hamish at various meetings relating to the Harris Plan. AAR had gone on to the BT website only to find that HIE are responsible for getting this project completed. On the BT website it stated that the Bays ( Manish exchange) should have the system in place by December 2016. I emailed HIE on the 5<sup>th</sup> April and received not even an acknowledgement. AAR rang on Friday morning and it was confirmed that HIE are responsible but none of the Team dealing with it were available but someone would ring back. The result was that difficulties in laying cable on the Bays side meant that it was unlikely that any connection would be made for 2/3 years.

## 5. New Matters

- (1) AAR – issues had been raised of the need to have better road signage particularly at the top of Ferry Road relating to the movement of horses in that area. It was agreed that AAR speak to Roads Dept. to see what can be done.
- (2) HT - brought up the matter of the correspondence relating to the upgrading of the mobile mast in Northton – it was agreed that what was needed was the coverage being extended to those areas which had little or no cover – HT to continue with this matter.

## 6. Date next meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016