

South Harris Community Council – Minutes of Meeting 12th June 2017

1. **Apologies** – Kenneth MacLeod, Caroline Chaffer, Marion Morrison, Kathryn Campbell, Neil MacLean, , P.C Phil Bertin, Francis MacLeod, Lisa MacDonald, John Mitchell, Paul Finnegan
2. **Present** – Alan Ross, Stephen MacKinnon, Hamish Taylor, John R MacLean, Marion Morrison, Kathryn Campbell, Finlay Cunningham
3. **Introducing Councillors** – Finlay Cunningham was welcomed to the meeting and said that he and his fellow councillors plan to work as a team when dealing with the different areas of the ward.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 Roads

(1) Proposed reduction of speed limits to 20mph in certain areas – Consensus was that this would be more obstructive than useful and that the current 30mph speed limit could be enforced more with better signage and policing. Concern was raised about the corner at the Clachan where it can be dangerous as cars come round at speed and visibility is poor. Councillor Cunningham to speak to Donnie Macrae CNES Roads Department about coming down to look at the roads.

(2) Problems relating to campervans on the roads and the need for information on use of passing places to be widely communicated – Kathryn brought up the problem of campervans parking at the side of the road at the end of Northton which is causing difficulty for buses turning. This problem seems to have been made worse by the gate which has been put across the back access road beside the beach where campervans parked in the past. The question of who owns this access road was raised. Allan will speak to Rebecca Hutton, Northton Grazings Clerk about ownership. Councillor Cunningham will seek to arrange a meeting with someone high up in council roads department to come down and discuss all road related concerns and see for themselves.

(3) Signage on the A859 - Roads have been much busier this year and the new roads have made the problem of speeding on double track onto single worse. It was suggested that more road narrowing signs are needed. Councillor Cunningham says he has been told that there are no plans for work on the main Butt to Barra spinal route.

(4) C79 – need for parking facilities to be improved particularly near signed foot paths so as to stop parking in passing places – The problem of parking in passing places due to lack of parking has increased due to the new Hebridean Way footpath on the Peat Road in Leverburgh being opened but no parking spaces being provided.

(5) Lingerbay Embankment - Allan brought up the issue of protruding rock on an embankment at Lingerbay which if it was to collapse it could result in the road being

closed for a long period of time and a require a high cost to fix it. We will put this in writing to the council and request that they come and inspect.

(6) Strond road flooding - Parts of the Strond road are prone to flooding, a problem which has become worse since the work to install fibre broadband was carried out.

(7) Cal Mac announcements about roads – Allan has been in contact with Cal Mac about reading out an announcement to passengers as the ferry approaches the harbour about the single track roads. Hamish has drafted an announcement which could be read out. Other suggestions were that a video explaining driving on single track roads and using passing places could be played and flyers could be handed out on the ferry and placed in B &Bs and Self Caterings.

4.2 Funding

(1) Ward Priority Funding – Councillor Cunningham will find out how much each Councillor gets in ward funding. He explained that the three councillors have agreed that they'll meet all groups first before deciding who should be awarded funding and said that a bidding process may be used.

(2) Mill Pool project – Leigh Tregurtha will start strimming the area within 2 to 3 weeks. Stephen will speak to Kate Langley at the Volunteer Centre about gathering volunteers for maintenance including strimming afterwards and raking.

(3) Challenge Fund – Application for up to £2,000 has to be in for the end of August. Any project suggestions will be welcomed.

4.3 Local Facilities

(1) Chemical disposable point - The chemical disposable point beside the Waiting Room at the pier in Leverburgh has been closed as it has been blocking up. Willie Macrae of Scottish Water has said that there are alternative areas where it could be installed. Allan has contacted Willie Macrae for more details.

(2) Mobile signal coverage – Hamish said that he had wrote to Donnie Morrison to say he hoped that Bays Area wouldn't be overlooked in the new £120 million project. Mr Morrison replied that that there is a commitment from the Scottish Government that all premises will have access to at least 30Mbps download by 2021. In the meantime in homes and businesses where download speeds are less than 2Mbps and won't be reached by the project in the next year can apply for the Better Broadband Scheme that provides a voucher of up to £350 for the installation of a satellite or wireless system where available

5. AOCB

- Dunmore Crescent – Problem of awful looking colouring of houses in Dunmore Crescent was raised and the fact that they have not been painted in 8 years. Councillor Cunningham said he was told by HHP that they would need to insulate each house before painting and the cost per house would be £17,000. Councillor Cunningham will speak again to HHP about this.

Next Meeting Date – 14 August 2017