

SHCC Minutes 5/4/2022 at South Harris Free Church

Hall 7.30pm

Present – Alan Ross – Chair; Effie MacLeod – Vice-Chair; Stephen MacKinnon – Secretary; Donnie MacDonald; John R MacLean; Andrew Harvey; Cllr Fulton; Cllr Finnegan (both joined by phone)

Apologies – Caroline Chaffer; Marion Morrison;

1. Minutes of previous meeting (1/3/22) – Proposed by Donnie and seconded by Effie.
2. New Member – Andrew Harvey was introduced as a new co-opted member of SHCC.
3. Closure of Uig Pier –
 - Drop in consultation taking place Thursday 7th from 5.30pm – 8pm.
 - Cllr Mitchell had sent draft response to the 2nd Strategic Transport Projects Review outlining some of the challenges and potential solutions.
 - Discussion over why Catamarans are not being used. Advantages include shorter crossing times, no living quarters needed but instead crew live in their home ports, no big restaurants needed. Cal Mac seem to be against them.
 - The Harris Transport Forum are also meeting Scottish Government Transport Minister, Jenny Gilruth, in advance of the public meeting. Cllr Mitchell said he would be bringing up his draft report with her and encouraging innovative thinking.
 - Currently Uig Pier is set to close from 10th October 2022 until 27th March 2023. MV Hebrides to sail Lochmaddy to Uig. No sailings from Tarbert, instead Harris residents will have to go Stornoway to Ullapool.
 - Alan raised point of people from Harris having to travel an extra 40 miles to Stornoway to get to Ullapool, very costly and time consuming especially with the current high cost of petrol. No answer has been given yet by Cal Mac on what they could do about this.
 - Cllr Fulton said it was very disappointing not to have heard more from our MP and MSP on these important issues. He hopes there will be a good attendance at the consultation. Cllr Fulton had to leave the meeting at this point.
 - Cllr Finnegan said that Cal Mac have not carried out an impact assessment of hotels, local businesses etc on the loss of a ferry coming into Tarbert.

- 2nd Strategic Transport Projects Review – SHCC response required by 14th April. Meeting again next Monday to discuss.
4. E- Sgoil Proposal – Cllrs are aware, and Cllr Mitchell is joining an online EIS meeting.
 5. Rodel Car Park – Donnie has one quote with two more to come.
 6. Northton Bus/Parking – Discussion over situation with buses not being able to get down the village last year due to cars parking on both sides of single-track road and how this can be prevented this year. It needs a combination of signage, parking, and wardens. The pot holes in Northton were also brought up. Alan brought up that Murdo MacRitchie at CNES had been shown round and given photos of potholes around South Harris but nothing has been done. Cllr Mitchell said the explanation given by CNES is that due to budget constraints, only emergency repairs can be carried out.

Date of Next Meeting Monday 11th April 7.30pm at South Harris Free Church Hall.