

South Harris Community Council Minutes 3/6/22 at Leverburgh Free Church Hall

Present – Alan Ross – Chair; Effie MacLeod – Vice-Chair; Stephen MacKinnon – Secretary; Donnie MacDonald; Marion Morrison; John MacLean; Cllr Finnegan; Jenny MacAulay

1. Apologies – Cllr Fulton; Andrew Harvey; Caroline Chaffer
2. Minutes of 5th and 11th April – Proposed by Donnie and seconded by Alan as being an accurate record of both meetings.
3. Matters Arising – Sheep – Alan walked area to see where sheep were getting out – it is at the bottom of the cliff where an old fence runs into the sea. Most present agreed that it is the responsibility of the Common Grazing committee to sort this issue. **Actions – Donnie will speak to Maggie MacKay from Anderson MacArthur, Factor for Kyles Estate, to ask for map/diagram of boundaries. Grazing Clerk for area will be invited to future meeting once more information has been obtained. Marion to get photos of area in question.**
4. Co-opting New Member – It was agreed that Jenny MacAulay would be co opted to join SHCC.
5. Ferry Issues – Cllr Finnegan gave an update:
 - HDL and local businesses had a meeting with Robbie Drummond regarding the mezzanine issue and about the 24 weeks where there will be no ferry coming into Tarbert.
 - North Harris Community Council met CMAL about ferries and the lack of ferries built.
 - CMAL looking for new Chair and the criteria includes being an islander or having island connections.
 - CMAL Chief Executive doesn't think catamarans would work this far north, even though they have been successful in the Pentland Firth.
 - Two new ferries still expected to be on time.
 - Transport Minister Jenny Gilruth to ask Finance Secretary for £800k needed to run mezzanine deck. This is apparently due to staff working time directive.
 - Cal Mac Community Board also met Jenny Gilruth where catamarans and new ferries were discussed.
6. Housing in Leverburgh – Jenny talked about her email to Alan which expressed concern about the lack of housing and the effect it will have on nursery and school rolls, as well as the impact on local businesses. Cllr Finnegan gave an update on the proposed development near Leverburgh Pier:
 - Cllr Finnegan met recently with the landowner, Mark Miller Munday, and Council Planning. The project is still live but the issue is that sewage is at full capacity. A new tank or system would be needed for the new housing development.
 - Callum Iain MacIver from Economic Development is now involved and HHP and CNES will fund a study to design a system that will deal with the sewage. Planning needs to see a system that will carry sewage away.
 - Scottish Water will need to be happy as they will have to agree to adopt and maintain. Feeling is that this will need to be a tank solution.
 - Proposed development is 12 houses and is the priority for HHP.

- **Action – Cllr Finnegan to check latest timeline as well as what the breakdown of bedrooms etc will be. Stephen will be copied in.**
7. Bays of Harris Buyout – Public consultation took place in Leverburgh Village Hall on Wednesday night; events also took place in Leaclee and Berneray. Alan, John and Cllr Finnegan attended and gave a quick report of the event.
- Financial projections were displayed on posters from feasibility study carried out by Duncan MacPherson, Faye MacLeod and Calum MacLeod.
 - Next step will be a ballot, likely to take place in September.
 - Discussion over whether SHCC should take a position for or against on the buyout, or should remain neutral. Argument for being neutral was that only two members live in the Bays of Harris Estate area and will have a vote. Argument for having a view was that it is part of the area which SHCC represents and it affects us.
 - Donnie said that if SHCC does take a view for or against, he will have to declare a conflict of interest as Rodel Estate owner, a neighbouring estate of the Bays of Harris.
8. A.O.C.B –
- Lack of Podiatry Service – Only podiatrist is on long term sick leave. Cllr Finnegan said that the post had been advertised 26 times without success. **Action – Cllr Finnegan will ask for a latest update.**
 - Skip in Leverburgh – Skip is currently located on Leverburgh Pier near Seonaidh’s garage and has worked well for the most part as Seonaidh keeps an eye on and fly tipping is not an issue as the busy pier is a deterrent. SEPA are putting pressure on Leverburgh Enhancement Group for this to be moved and proposing that it sits in the car park across from the Village Hall. SHCC gave unanimous backing that the skip should stay at Leverburgh Pier and that moving it will probably result in fly tipping. **Action – John to go back to SEPA.**
 - Gunnera – Donnie asked if the eradication programme was still running – North Harris Trust are still running and individuals can contact them.

Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 14th June at 7.30pm