

# South Harris Community Council Meeting

28<sup>th</sup> June 2022 via Zoom

Present – Alan Ross, Stephen MacKinnon, Marion Morrison, Donnie MacDonald, Jenny MacAulay,

Apologies – Effie MacLeod, John MacLean, Councillor Fulton, Councillor Finnegan, Caroline Chaffer, Andrew Harvey

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting – Proposed by Alan Ross and seconded by Donnie MacDonald
2. Sheep – There has been a noticeable reduction in sheep around the kintulavig area, although there are some near Obbe road and the bottom road heading towards the Pier. Donnie gave an update on the issue of boundaries and sheep getting out – it has become clear that there are sheep getting out from several common grazings around Leverburgh, not just Kyles Estate. Donnie has spoken to two Crofting Lawyers who have said that it is the responsibility of the Grazings Committee to repair broken fences, not the Estate Owner. **Donnie will send the legal parts in writing to Alan.** Donnie suggested that all Grazings Clerks relevant to Leverburgh be invited to a meeting to make sure they are clear on areas that sheep should be in and on their responsibility for dealing with repair of fences.
3. Ferries – Possibility of a temporary pier at Uig has been mooted and Alastair Allan has been bringing up the issue of no ferry during the winter months in the Scottish Parliament recently. Councillor Fulton has a petition live regarding the ferries which is has now been signed by over 5,000 people – **Stephen will email round for anyone who has not seen it. Everyone to forward to friends to sign. Alan to ask Councillor Fulton for latest on ferry situation.**
4. Housing – **Alan to ask Councillor Finnegan for an update. Alan will find out latest on SEPA.** Stephen read a letter from Catriona MacLennan of the Leverburgh Parent Council about the housing situation and the need for local groups to be shouting about this issue – it was agreed that pressure must be kept on CNES and HHP.
5. Bays Buyout – No one has heard on anything new except that the vote is due in September. Full feasibility study and video are now available online.
6. Gunnera – Donnie has been in touch with Michael Hunter, Manager of North Harris Trust, who oversees the Gunnera eradication programme. They received funding from Nature Scot primarily for treating gunnera in North Harris but also in other parts of the island. Michael is visiting Rodel tomorrow and anyone else who knows of areas needing treated can contact Michael

directly. Donnie brought up the possibility of creation of a couple of seasonal jobs treating gunnera in South Harris if funding was available and training from Michael Hunter, with appropriate risk assessments in place.

7. South Harris Warden Interviews – Interview taking place on Friday with two candidates being interview - **Alan will find out where the venue is and report back.** Donnie and Alan will join Carolyn MacPhee on the interview panel – **Donnie to find out if Bob is available to join.**
8. Rodel Toilets – **Alan to ask Effie for an update on getting quotes for works to be carried out on toilets.** It was agreed that Lewis Builders be approached for quotes due to them working on Leverhulme Hub renovation and so petrol costs may be kept down. This would be subject to the Hub being happy with this – **Alan will check with Hub Board.** It was suggested that that Historic Scotland be approached to match fund works once quotes are known, given the proximity to St Clements Church.
9. Skip in Leverburgh – SEPA are continuing to put pressure on to have skip moved away from Leverburgh Pier and placed next to the bottle bank across from Leverburgh Hall. Marion has been in touch with CNES Waste Management who have said that they are happy with where the skip is currently. **Marion will contact Mr Ferries from SEPA to hopefully arrange a site meeting to show how unsuitable the proposed new site would be.**
10. Care in the Community – Marion raised the issue of carers not being given enough time with clients and having to rush off to their next client, also the issue of carers from South Harris traveling to clients in North Harris and vice-versa. **Marion to put in writing for next meeting and then the next steps will be considered.**
11. Climate Action – Alison Stockwell, Climate Action Coordinator for the Western Isles, was in touch asking for a meeting in early August. It was agreed to pass this to Nigel Bruce at Leverhulme Community Hub as the Hub have been heavily involved in greening the new building and have further plans. **Stephen will contact.**
12. School – Alan and Marion went to Leverhulme School to present Head Teacher, Rhoda MacDonald who is leaving, with flowers as thanks for her service. It turns out that Rhoda's replacement has fallen through, so Rhoda is staying on into the new term until a replacement is found.