

South Harris Community Council Minutes 25/10/22 at Leverburgh Free Church Hall at 7.30pm

Present – Donnie MacDonald – Chair; Marion Morrison – Treasurer; Stephen MacKinnon – Secretary; John R MacLean; Jenny MacAulay (via phone)

1. Apologies – Effie MacLeod; Caroline Chaffer; Cllr Fulton; Cllr Finnegan
2. Minutes of previous meeting (20/9/22) – Proposed by Marion and seconded by John.
3. Matters Arising –
 - Community Skip – Nothing new to report
 - Grass Cutting – Too late in season now, keep in mind for springtime.
 - Grants – Marion in contact with Laura Beresford from Foundation Scotland re eligibility for Cal Mac Community Fund which closes 6th January.
 - Bank – Jenny to meet Marion to sign forms to become signatory.
 - Cllr Diaries – Donnie spoke to Cllr Fulton in person to suggest that there's no requirement for both to attend every meeting and suggested attending by rotation.
4. Social Housing – Email from Alasdair Allan MSP offering his assistance to move this forward. He had letter from Morag Ferguson at CNES Planning to say that Planning is not holding things up. Mr Allan has offered to contact the landowners to get things moving. **Consensus was that that the Secretary should write to Mr Allan to ask him to proceed but ask that he contact HHP first to let them know, as the last thing we would want is to negatively affect negotiations if they are at a sensitive stage.**
5. Nursery Provision – Members of the community have been in contact to say that nursery provision at Leverburgh had been cut to 2 days a week, with the Play Leader having to travel out to Tarbert on the other 3 days. This is due to a shortage of staff in Tarbert. **Secretary to write to Director of Education and Head of Service to communicate the alarm in the community about this and to ask when full provision will be reinstated to Leverburgh and whether using staff from Lewis had been considered to address the staff shortage in Tarbert? Cllr Finnegan to be copied in as well.**
6. Painting of Wood Surrounding Community Garden – Gordon Newman was in touch volunteering to pain the wooden fence at the roadside which desperately needs treatment. He is willing to paint if about 10 litres of Cuprinol Forest Green Ducksback is purchased. Agreed that SHCC should pay for this. **Stephen will contact Mr Newman to thank him and liaise over timing and method of payment.**

7. Paisley Sisters – John has been in touch with the Harris Tweed Authority who are happy to take an application for funding of signage – **John will progress this.** Other grants such as Cal Mac Community Fund, Crown Estates and other match funding could be sought towards the building repairs. **Costings of repairs will have to be sought – Owen Williams and West Harris Trust (recently ran courses on wall building) to be contacted by John.**
8. Rodel Toilets – Works are complete, and toilets are open and looking very impressive. £35 in donations have been brought in already but a more secure honesty box is required – **Marion to look into. Donnie to take photos and give to Stephen to prepare short feature for De Tha Dol? to publicise this news.** Marion spoke to Lewis Builders regarding electric/solar panels, but the building is too small for battery run and would have to be electric – **agreed that this is not worthwhile at the moment.**
9. HVS AGM – Marion currently represents SHCC on the Harris Voluntary Service but is stepping down. **The AGM takes place Friday 4th November if anyone is interested in attending to represent South Harris, similarly if they wish to become a Director.**
10. A.O.C.B –
 - New Members – **Stephen to put in De Tha Dol along with Rodel toilets piece that SHCC is looking for new members.**
 - Community Mental Health Wellbeing Fund Year 2 – Everyone should have received email about this. **Send Donnie any comments and he will follow up.**

Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 6th December at 7.30pm