

# **SANDWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016 – 7.30pm**

**Sandwick Community Room**

## **NOTES OF MEETING**

<b><u>SEDERUNT</u></b>	Mary McCormack
<b><u>IN ATTENDANCE</u></b>	Alasdair Allan MSP
<b><u>COUNCILLORS</u></b>	Angus McCormack
<b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b>	Bob Walker, Cllr Rae Mackenzie, Cllr Charlie Nicolson, Cllr Zena Stewart, Cllr Alasdair Macleod

Mary McCormack noted the meeting was not quorate and therefore no formal decisions were made.

### **MINUTES OF 23<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**

It was agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>RD</sup> November would be presented to the next meeting for formal consideration.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

It was agreed the Matters Arising would be discussed at the next meeting.

### **IOLAIRE PROJECT**

Alasdair Allan MSP agreed to write an open letter of support for any funding applications made by Sandwick Community Council.

### **OUR ISLANDS OUR FUTURE BILL**

Alasdair Allan intimated the Bill, which should allow for more authority to be exercised at a local level, has resulted in further questions around issues such as the Crown Estate's power and revenue and what other powers may be exercised at a local level.

Mr Allan intimated further aims of the project will be to ensure island proofing of legislation and possible devolution of powers to communities as well as well as local authorities.

Mr Allan agreed to furnish a full report to the Community Council on the latest position of the Bill.

## **FUEL POVERTY**

Angus expressed concern that islanders will be affected by Fuel Poverty due to budget cuts for fuel poverty. He also expressed concern at the recent SSE roadshow to the islands, where representatives came to highlight the range of schemes available to those facing fuel poverty in the Western Isles. The event experienced a poor turnout due to very little publicity and Angus expressed the need for the Government to liaise with SSE to ensure these events are handled properly in the future and after publicity by the SSE.

Angus suggested Angus MacNeil MP invite SSE representatives to attend his Energy and Climate Committee to discuss the issue and to ask a number of questions, including why Islanders are paying 2pence more than the rest of the Scotland for electricity and why there are schemes that are available to people living in the Highlands but not in the Outer Hebrides.

Mr Allan agreed to make enquiries on the matter and to write to Amber Rudd MP, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on the issues Angus raised.

Mary thanked Mr Allan for his attendance at the meeting.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is due to be held on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016 at 7.30pm.

The meeting was brought to a close.