

SANDWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Monday, 20th June 2016 – 7.30pm

Sandwick Community Room

MINUTES OF MEETING

SEDERUNT Mary McCormack, Duncan Mackay, Alison Carty

COUNCILLORS Angus McCormack, Charlie Nicolson, Zena Stewart

APOLOGIES Michael Smith, Willie McFarlane, Anne Macfarlane, Cllr Alasdair Macleod, Cllr Rae Mackenzie

Mary welcomed attendees to the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS

Duncan Mackay proposed and Mary McCormack seconded the Minutes of the meeting held on 16th May 2016. The Minutes were approved.

MATTERS ARISING

Community room cupboard insurance

Angus McCormack intimated he is still to speak with Gordy Smith regarding Insurance cover for the cupboard in the community room.

Community Co-ordinator Representative

Mary met with David Macleay who confirmed, while there are no such designated council officers for the rural areas, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar will look at each project individually and decide if support could come from a specific area of the Council, dependent on the nature of the project.

Iolaire Meeting

An Iolaire MOWG meeting is yet to take place. Charlie agreed to find out when the next meeting is expected.

Tesco Bags of Help Application

Mary intimated the Community Council will not proceed with the application at this stage but may consider applying in the future.

DIY with Donnie Dotaman

Mary intimated this project will not be going ahead.

Co-opting of Members

Mary will send the Community Council Constitution to potential Community Council member, Nicola Macsween.

LEADER APPLICATION

In relation to the Sandwich Community Council Development Plan, this has been left with Michael Smith.

CHALLENGE FUND APPLICATION UPDATE

Angus intimated Michael spoke with the Mossend Residents Association about a possible student from UHI to come and assist the research project. UHI Inverness have said they're very interested in being involved and further advices from the Heritage Team at UHI inverness have recommended that a member of staff is more appropriate for this work.

Mary indicated to Michael that the Community Council would be keen to discuss the project further with the lead lecturer who expressed an interest in carrying out the work.

Angus proposed accessing the Challenge Fund to pay the £3k cost for the lecturer's services plus a further £1k to cover costs of producing the book and the exhibition. An application for the Challenge Fund has been submitted and acknowledged.

Angus also proposed asking all Lewis & Harris Councillors to contribute towards costs. The members agreed to both proposals.

REPORT OF MEETING WITH DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Mary met with Director of Education, Christina Maciver and Murdo Johnson where Bernard Chisholm, Director of Education, stated Sandwich Community Council were never offered a room in the Hall. At the meeting discussions also took place around renovations at the Hall, which is part of a Capital Programme, at an approximate costs of £300k and is due to commence in October. A proposed floorplan was presented showing a lift, fire escape and seating upstairs with 4 flexible rooms with partitions.

Bernard went on to say that the current community room structure is not fit for purpose and that Wifi connection would not be possible at any time in the future because of the building being part of the school compound.

Members discussed and agreed a designated space is required for the Community Council and agreed to request a copy of the plan and invite representatives from the Sandwich Hall Committee and SHARE to the next meeting on 29th August.

REPORT OF MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED LOCALITY PLANNING GROUP – 16 JUNE

Mary reported on the Proposed Locality Planning Group meeting held recently in Grianan. She mentioned that although this meeting had been described as 'the inaugural meeting', it did not appear to have been well planned. There were no representatives from out with the medical/social services, barring Councillor C M Stewart, Chair of Education and Mary, herself, as Chair of the SCC. It felt rather 'inbred'.

After raising the concern at the lack of liaison with community councils, it was suggested some form of PR in the public press around the aims and objectives of the group be publicised.

The next meeting is due to take place in July and Alison Carty agreed to attend on behalf of the Community Council.

It was agreed to write to Dr Ron Cully at the Comhairle suggesting engagement with the community before the next meeting on 21st July.

REPORT OF POINT and SANDWICK COASTAL PATH MEETING – 20 JUNE

Mary reported on the recent Point and Sandwick Coastal Path meeting where Tony Robson will make a definitive map of the coastal areas, Alasdair Nicolson has put in for charitable status and suggested opening a bank account. Tom Clark informed the Point & Sandwick Coastal Path Committee on PSC PC some materials from the modest plans to mark out a coastal path, initiated by a previous Community Council, were stored on his property. Matt Bruce added that a small sum of money still remain in the bank account opened for such purposes at that time.

Topics covered at the meeting were: coastal erosion, croft fences extended beyond where they should and emergency access. A public meeting will be held to address the topics at a later date.

The second phase of big Lottery funding is currently being applied for. The next meeting will be held on 15 Aug.

SUNDAY OPENING OF ISL

Mary read out a response from Leslie Macdonald at the Comhairle which stated: "Following his practice of offering Comhairle Members the opportunity to review the position once per Comhairle term, the Chief Executive has confirmed that the matter was discussed at a Members' briefing in late 2012/early 2013, where it was concluded that there was no requirement to reconsider the current position and no formal Report was therefore prepared. A Members' briefing is not a formal meeting, and accordingly has no agenda or minutes. It is simply a briefing for Elected Members on current political issues, including issues on which Members may wish further information, or may wish to receive a report. The Chief Executive's recollection is that Members felt that the matter had been reviewed in both 2006 and 2008, and that there was no further requirement or wish to review them once again within a relatively short time frame."

Mary went on to relay a letter from Malcolm Burr to all Councillors which confirmed written request from Cllrs Zena Stewart and Philip Maclean to look at feasibility for review of Sunday opening hours. Zena confirmed the matter will be brought up in September at the Council.

REQUEST FROM LOCAL TS INTERFACE 15 JUNE 2016

Mary read out the email from Fiona Macleod at Third Sector Hebrides asking for a list of over 50s clubs/associations operating in the area. Diane to forward on contact details for the Parkend, Holm and Mackenzie Park Residents Association, Mossend Residents Association and SHARE.

AOCB

Community Council PR

Zena proposed the Community Council submit a brief overview of Community Council meetings to Events newspaper. Diane agreed to produce this going forward.

Mackenzie Estate

Charlie intimated the following:

- Hedging at the Mackenzie Estate is to be finished by end of June.
- Mackenzie Estate/Parkend area have put in to the Council a speed restriction of 30/mph.
- Environmental Project will take place on the 29th June with 26 residents taking part.

Bonfire Night

Alison Carty suggested reintroducing the traditional bonfire night in the Sandwick area with social festivities held at the Hall. Angus intimated it is hoped the play area behind Plasterfield will be renovated and may be a possible location. Alison agreed to contact Kenny Morrison to discuss the possible locations.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be held on 29th August at 7.30pm.