

SANDWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Monday, 29th August 2016 – 7.30pm

Sandwick Community Room

MINUTES OF MEETING

SEDERUNT Mary McCormack, Willie Macfarlane, Alison Carty, Bob Walker, Duncan Mackay, Nicola Macsween

COUNCILLORS Angus McCormack, Charlie Nicolson

APOLOGIES Anne Macfarlane, Diane Murray, Michael Smith, Zena Stewart

The Chair welcomed Nicola Macsween to her first meeting.

Since there was no member of SHARE able to be present, the discussion was postponed to a future date.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS

With the addition of Cllr Zena Stewart's name to the sederunt and certain minor textual amendments, the minutes were approved. Their adoption was moved by Duncan Mackay and Alison Carty.

MATTERS ARISING

Lolaire MOWG

No date is yet known for the next meeting of the lolaire MOWG.

Leader Application

The application for a Development Officer to take forward the Community Plan has been lodged. On his return, Michael Smith will work with Diane Murray on the full application.

Challenge Fund

The application to the Challenge Fund was successful with a full grant of £1,746 agreed. Willie Macfarlane will provide written confirmation to Belle Anne Scott that the match funding is in place.

Locality Planning Group

Alison Carty was not available to go to the group but in any case, had received no formal notification. Charlie Nicolson had attended but agreed that no information had been sent out in advance of the meeting. Hector Macleod was elected Chair of the Locality Planning Group with Charlie Nicolson as Vice Chair. Alison Carty agreed to attend the next meeting on 15th September in Grianan at 7.30pm.

Events

The Events article has been submitted.

Bonfire Night

Alison Carty will speak to Kenny Morrison about the arrangements.

Third Sector Hebrides

A list of local clubs has been submitted.

Mackenzie Park

Hedging is now in thanks to Maybury Gardens. Speed restrictions will be considered at the next Comhairle series of meetings. Conservation Project began on 19th June with a good response.

WW1 PROJECT

The original intention was that a lecturer from UHI Inverness would carry out the project. There has been no recent contact from Inverness. Michael Smith suggests we approach a local Post Graduate student who has relevant experience to ask if she would undertake the project instead; she, apparently, has expressed an interest. It was agreed that Mary McCormack, Michael Smith and Bob Walker (in the evening only) meet with the student in the first instance. A total of £4000 is available for the first part of the project, that includes the Councillor contributions.

REPORT OF POINT and SANDWICK COASTAL PATH MEETING

Mary McCormack gave a detailed, oral report on the present position.

REPORT FROM THE WOMENS CONVENTION STORNOWAY 23RD AUGUST 2016

Mary McCormack also gave an oral report on the convention. Notice was given of a further event called Bridging the Gap to be held in The Shed, Francis Street on Wednesday 31st August.

BRAIGH BOARDWALK

Matt Bruce, Chair of Point CC, had spoken to SCC Chair about the poor state of repair of the boardwalk. He had established that Donald Nicholson had sponsored this via the Sandwick Environmental Forum which is now defunct. The SCC agreed to support financially any initiative taken by PCC to restore the path, on the understanding that no liability fell on the SCC.

Arising out of this discussion, it was agreed to write to the Comhairle to seek support for a cleaning of the dog excrement on site which is disgraceful! It was agreed to advise that more frequent emptying of bins is needed during the summer months.

LETTERS TO HEAD TEACHERS STORNOWAY PRIMARY / THE NICOLSON INSTITUTE

Chrisselle MacLennan Cup - After a good discussion it was agreed that the cup be awarded to a pupil or pupils in Stornoway Primary; that it should be open to all children in the school; that it be awarded for activity associated with enterprise; that the prize associated with the cup be £50 and that the Chair seek to meet with the Head-teacher, Mrs Murray, to discuss the matter and agree a way forward.

NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED OVER SUMMER RECESS

Community Choices Fund/Scottish Heritage Angels Award

Notification of both of these came during the summer recess and with little time to respond being given. The Chair wrote to the Community Choices Fund to complain but had received an unsympathetic response from the Scottish Government. The members expressed the opinion that the timing was most

unfair and inappropriate. It was agreed that a further letter be written which will be copied to the Comhairle and the MSP.

Cal Mac Timetables

The SCC agreed to write to the Comhairle to express its views despite the fact that the date for response had past. The SCC was unhappy at the timing of the consultation and the brevity of time allowed for response. The SCC was of the view that only by having two ferries could the current problems of under capacity be assuaged; this would permit three passenger sailings per day and one freight sailing. Everyone was aware of persons being unable to book the ferry because of problems of freight having priority most of the time.

An alternative Saturday sailing timetable was suggested to allow sporting activity to take place more readily. This is as follows:

- 6am depart Stornoway:8.30am arrive Ullapool
- 9.30am depart Ullapool: noon arrive Stornoway
- 3.30pm leave Stornoway: 6pm arrive Ullapool
- 7pm leave Ullapool:9.30pm arrive Stornoway

In addition it was agreed that problems with the bus service from Ullapool to Inverness, still required to be addressed.

Loch Seaforth - The SCC agreed that certain matters be brought to the attention of Cal Mac regarding the Loch Seaforth as follows:

- The location of the space for dogs is inappropriate. It is too near the food area and is situated in the area set aside for passengers. The space provided on the Isle of Lewis was exclusive to dogs which is how it should be on the Loch Seaforth. Now people even take their dogs into the toilets!
- Sleeping on the bench seats in the cafeteria should be discouraged.
- Children should be under control at all times. They should not be allowed to run around at will. It should be made clear that CalMac has no responsibility for accidents where children are not supervised.
- A seating area should be set aside for the elderly and infirm where children are not forever running past chasing each other willy-nilly, and where movement is at a minimum.

SANDWICK DANCE STUDIO

Angus outlined a proposal from Kirstie Anderson to build a dance studio across from the Sandwick Hall. The SCC agree to write to Kirstie Anderson expressing its support for the project in principle. The SCC is keen to encourage young entrepreneurs in the Sandwick area.

AOCB

Planning Applications

One application had been received for a new house build on North Street.

Finance

It was agreed that the Maybury Gardens invoice be paid. Alison Carty declared an interest in this matter.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be held on Monday, 26th September at 7.30pm.