

# **SANDWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7.00pm**

## **Sandwick Community Room**

### **MINUTE OF THE MEETING**

**Sederunt:** Anna Macfarlane, Duncan Mackay, Rhoda Mackenzie, Nicola MacSween, Sandy Morrison, Bob Walker(Chair)

**Councillors:** Cllrs Keith Dodson, Angus McCormack & Charlie Nicolson(from 7.30pm)

**Apologies:** Cllrs Alasdair Macleod, Rae Mackenzie & Finlay Stewart;  
Mike Smith (belatedly 19<sup>th</sup> Nov.2019)

#### **Minute of the Previous Meeting:**

The minute of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018 was approved together with the minute of the Inaugural Meeting of SCC held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

(It should be noted that in the intervening months, far from being inactive, all SCC efforts were focused on the Iolaire Commemorations and follow up; a task of immeasurable proportions.)

#### **Matters Arising:**

From the minute of 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018:

Posthumous Awards WW2 – as Bob Walker’s meticulous investigations had not revealed any records or Commanding Officer level survivors to verify Cpl Macaulay’s bravery, the issue has been passed to the MP’s Office. Cllr McCormack passed this on and noted they were eager to progress the matter. Further, Cllr McCormack volunteered to progress the earlier suggestion that a war memorial be created perhaps in the environs of Sandwick Hall. The late Mary McCormack, our past Chair had suggested a board bearing the names of Sandwick people who were involved in WW2 and, in the event that there was no award for Cpl Macaulay, that his profile for example be included in this memorial. Cllr McCormack agreed to speak to Stornoway Historical Society about this.

The suggestion of street names in the forthcoming housing development in Sandwick was also revisited with both Cpl Macaulay’s name and that of Murdo Macfarlane, the Melbost Bard being noted as possibilities. Cllr McCormack agreed to speak to John Maciver at HHP.

Cllr Dodson advised caution with new street names given the repetitive and often confusing nature of names selected for streets in the Mackenzie Park estate.

Chriselle MacLennan Cup: No contact has been made from Stornoway Primary following communication from SCC. However Cllr McCormack reported that the cup had been awarded at the last school prize giving. Bob Walker, Chair to write to the HT at Stornoway Primary.

Female Representation/Community Views/MOWG: There was no progress on this matter to report.

Area Water Safety Groups: To continue the work started by Willie Macfarlane, our late Treasurer, Bob Walker, Chair agreed to contact Kenny Macleod at Scottish Water.

Iolaire & MOWG: There was consensus that a huge “thank you” was due to all involved in the work at all levels in the Iolaire Commemoration Project; with a special mention of the determination of the late

Mary McCormack and Willie Macfarlane to see this project realised. Stornoway Historical Society records showed that some 6k people had visited the exhibition or attended events. Such was the increased profile of this terrible disaster that the actual site at which the vessel sank, off of Holm Farm in Sandwick, was now officially recognised as a War Grave. Sandy Morrison drew attention to the fixings for the new bronze plaque at the memorial site. It appears that stainless steel fixings have not been used and corrosion is already an issue. Cllr McCormack agreed to follow this up.

Kareen Macleod's Iolaire Project: it was noted that this project was now complete and technical items purchased for use in this had been gifted to the Stornoway Historical Society for future use.

Braighe Area - Dog Fouling: This issue had been passed to Point Community Council. Cllr Dodson pointed out that this was an island wide problem with no fines or other action being taken by CnES. The general consensus was that a minority of dog owners was causing the problem and this issue should remain on the agenda.

Housing & Environment: Concern was expressed yet again regarding the lack of amenities and infrastructure in new housing developments and the complete absence of funding in initial plans for such projects meaning that new residents were often without street lighting, telephone connections, play areas for children, social meeting areas or buildings etc to begin with anyway. Given that another area of land had been sold for further housing development adjacent to Mackenzie Park, all were keen that a repeat of previous issues should be avoided. To this end, TIG had suggested any issues or ideas should be directed to themselves at the earliest opportunity as well as to Mairi Maciver, Planning, CnES to be incorporated into the masterplan.

Sandy Morrison explained he had already been in contact with TIG to suggest, for example, a "bike area" with challenging ramps and obstacles, a temporary path in the area of the football field and a street layout in the new development that would allow buses to enter and leave the area easily instead of further overloading the already inadequate, verging on unsafe, bus waiting area on the main road at Parkend.

The aspirational Education & Social Services project to create a respite unit in the area of the existing football field at the old Sandwick School buildings was also noted in relation to the proposed, temporary footpath.

Additional suggestions were made such as a building for possibly a community shop/community enterprise/professionally run and a healthcare hub.

Rhoda Mackenzie re emphasised the need to be proactive and to have a multi agency approach to such developments.

Cllr McCormack suggested Stuart Wilson, TIG be invited to speak at the next SCC meeting.

A further suggestion was made to form a group comprising representatives from SCC – Sandwick, Melbost/Branahue, Parkend, Holm & Mackenzie Park residents association as well as SHARE to take forward ideas. Bob Walker, Chair to attend.

Association of Community Councils: Cllr McCormack agreed to speak to Belle Anne Scott, CnES as it was anticipated this association would restart once the newly elected Community Councils were up and running.

Street & Landscape Furniture/Outbuildings from recycled materials: Cllr McCormack had raised this matter previously with a view to investigating further and agreed to progress this; especially with regards to seating in the Mossend area.

Cllr Charlie Nicolson joined the meeting at this point, 7.30pm.

## **Matters Arising:**

From the minute of 29<sup>th</sup> October 2019:

Election of Office Bearers: Sandy Morrison was duly elected as Vice Chair of SCC.

GDRP: Bob Walker asked that clarification was sought on this from Belle Anne Scott at CnES. Nicola MacSween, Clerk to follow up.

Bank Account Signatories: This was being progressed by Nicola MacSween, Clerk.

Payment for Clerk Services: It was agreed the sum of £500 be made available for this.

SHARE: Sandy Morrison reported that seating and a conference table had been purchased from the HIE office clearance and were now installed in Sandwick Hall.

Housing & Environment: Cllr Nicholson referred to some of the points made earlier by Sandy Morrison and agreed to speak to David Smart, CnES on the issue of safety of especially school children at the Parkend bus stop.

Stornoway Historical Society: The cabinets used for the Iolaire Exhibition were now with SHS.

Melbost T-Junction: it was confirmed that Cllr Finlay Stewart had followed up the issue of undergrowth obscuring visibility in this area with Calum Mackenzie, CnES.

Bob Walker mentioned a similar issue causing a blind spot at the bridge in the Ivorhill area. Cllr McCormack agreed to follow this up.

## **Local Electricity Bill:**

A copy of this information had been circulated to all prior to the meeting. Cllr McCormack re emphasised the importance of this bill and to encourage as many as possible to sign up to it given the advantages of it to the wider islands community; electricity generated on the islands for the islands. The bill had, at this point, attracted 100 signatures. A motion would be presented to the full council at their meeting in early December 2019. All agreed that SCC would sign up to this. Nicola MacSween, Clerk to progress the paperwork.

## **Local Government Boundary Commission:**

A copy of this information had been circulated to all prior to the meeting. Proposed changes meant that Melbost and Branahue would come under Stornoway South leading to a reduction in revenues for the district of Point but an increase for Stornoway South.

## **AOCB:**

Police Survey: A copy of this document had been circulated to all prior to the meeting. All CC members were asked to complete this independently. A brief discussion followed highlighting various issues such as contactability/centralisation, confusion for particularly elderly people in relation to which Police contact number to use, responses to incidents or not and more. Issues of resources were noted and the response to incidents involving risk to life being given the priority expected. Cl Graham was to be invited to the next meeting.

SCC Social Media: Following on from Cllr Nicholson's suggestion that young people be co-opted onto SCC, Nicola MacSween suggested that part of their remit might be the creation of a social media presence for SCC.

Contact Information: All SCC members were asked to forward their contact details to Nicola MacSween, Clerk including address & telephone nos. With email being the preferred means of contact, these details would be kept safely and only used in exceptional circumstances.

**DONM:** Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7pm in the Sandwick Meeting Room.