

SANDWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Thursday 1st October 2020 at 7.00pm

By Zoom

MINUTE OF THE MEETING

Sederunt: Anna Macfarlane, Duncan Mackay, Rhoda Mackenzie, Nicola MacSween(Clerk), Sandy Morrison(Vice Chair), Mike Smith

Councillors: Cllrs Angus McCormack & Charlie Nicolson

Apologies: Bob Walker(Chair), Cllr Keith Dodson

In the absence of Bob Walker, Sandy Morrison chaired the meeting. Good wishes were extended to Bob for a speedy recovery.

Minute of the Previous Meeting:

The minute of the meeting held on Monday 20th January 2020 was approved together with the addition of Anna Macfarlane's name to the Sederunt.

Matters Arising:

Posthumous Awards WW2 – Cllr McCormack reported he had received a letter from Annabel Goldie in which she stated "...were it not for the rules, an award would be made".

Chriselle MacLennan Cup: Cllr McCormack agreed to continue liaison with the Head Teacher at Stornoway Primary School.

Female Representation/Community Views/MOWG: Cllr Charlie Nicolson confirmed this was on the agenda at CnES.

Area Water Safety Groups: Having had no resolution to this query at either Scottish Water or CnES, Bob Walker would refer the matter to the RNLI when possible.

Housing & Environment: Mossend T-Junction - Cllr McCormack reported that the gorse affecting visibility at the Mossend junction had been cut twice in recent months. Cllr Macleod to follow up similar issues at the Braighe with Cllr Stewart.

Association of Community Councils: This matter is currently on hold with CnES given the current Covid19 Pandemic situation.

Street & Landscape Furniture/Outbuildings from recycled materials: Sandy Morrison to contact Bob Walker about plaques for the benches in the Mossend area.

GDPR: This matter is currently on hold with CnES given the current Covid19 Pandemic situation.

Bank Account Signatories: It was confirmed Anna Macfarlane, Nicola MacSween and Bob Walker were current signatories.

Payment for Clerk Services: Anna Macfarlane, Treasurer to follow this up.

SHARE: Sandy Morrison confirmed that the furniture now in place in the upstairs rooms could be removed to storage whenever the rooms were required for other purposes.

LEB: no developments to report at this point.

Housing & Environment:

Sandy Morrison informed the meeting that SHARE had applied for funding to create a pathway from Mackenzie Park to "the park" involving a strip of land some 5m wide.

This was supported by HHP and £1000 of funding obtained. Cllr McCormack confirmed that a North Street crofter had volunteered to cut the grass on the pitch and CnES had authorised this. Sandy Morrison offered to assist.

Commemorative Board:

Progress was being made, if slowly given the current Covid19 Pandemic, with the creation of the board intended for placement at Sandwick Hall.

A signmaker had been contacted and the idea of a head in profile was being explored. Malcolm Macdonald at SHS was resourcing images.

Both the Education Committee and the SHARE Committee had agreed to the project. Quotes were awaited and further suggestions welcome.

Sandy Morrison offered help if required from SHARE.

Dog Fouling:

Point Community Council had contacted CnES ref this issue and the associated bins in the Braighe area. Matt Bruce had reported an improvement in the situation.

Crown Estate Funding:

Steinish Path:

Initial target of £80k had been revised to £66k; £42k from the 1st round of Crown Estate Funding and an application from Mossend Residents Association(MRA)£24k from the 2nd round.

It was hoped to complete the first phase of works by the end of 2020 in collaboration with Point & Sandwick Coastal Community Path group.

Cllr Angus McCormack requested support from Sandwick Community Council for MRA. This was agreed and the collaborative efforts noted of all involved in this with Point & Sandwick Coastal Community Path group.

Parkend Play Area:

Application for £19.4k for renovations.

FAME:

Application for £18k for the permanent siting of a community skip. CnES to service.

It was noted that from the 30th September 2020, guidelines for community skips had changed and mileage restrictions removed allowing all areas to locate a skip for community use. Locals would man the skips at agreed opening times.

Community Conversations:

The aspirational suggestion for Sandwich Community Council to be teamed with Point Community Council was noted based on the common needs of the 2 districts.

Stornoway Community Council had seemingly expressed an aspiration to cover the district of Stornoway only.

Point meanwhile had created a new organisation: Urras Storas an Rubha.

Representatives from Sandwich CC together with other Sandwich bodies would have seats on the Urras. This forum to be set up with Crown Estate monies - £165k with £30k from this amount ring fenced for the creation of a role providing group support. Economic recovery monies would also be administered through this group.

Mike Smith asked why it was necessary to set up and establish a new forum, why this could not be the Community Councils and suggested Stornoway Community Council.

Sandy Morrison volunteered to contact the Chair of Stornoway Community Council to arrange a joint meeting in which all organisations within the districts could be represented.

Rhoda Mackenzie explained that from an initial discussion with Stornoway Community Council, it was estimated that £75k of Crown estate monies had already gone into the Sandwich area.

Future Projects:

Parkend to Melbost: signage for walkers and cyclists – ongoing.

Braighe:

Cllr Angus McCormack reported that the 3 Point Cllrs had discussed the upper walkway at the beach from Melbost to the mid car park and were minded to fund the placement of 2 benches there. Matt Bruce, P&SCCP had been in discussion with the Grazings on the matter and awaiting an update.

Anna Macfarlane pointed out that this was a well used walkway and that some levelling was required at the Melbost end. Cllr Angus McCormack agreed to follow this up.

Sandy Morrison suggested approaching Stornoway Trust to obtain heavy duty benches.

Cllr Charlie Nicolson explained that metal benches were now preferred such as those in situ between Miller Road and Lower Sandwich. Cllr Nicolson agreed to provide Cllr McCormack with details.

Sandwick Hall:

Monies for painting the hall, the addition of drapes for soundproofing/sound reduction, realignment of flooring and the installation of a beverage point in one of the upstairs rooms. The latter in anticipation of possibly a Senior Citizens Group post Covid19.

P&ST Minibus:

Setting up of an arrangement for the use of this P&ST community commodity.

Path:

From Mackenzie Park to the Sandwich Playing fields.

Group asked to email further ideas for Crown Estate Funding to the Clerk.

AOCB:

Cllr Charlie Nicolson reported:

- Road safety issues relating to the Mackenzie Estate had been discussed with CnES, Technical Services.
- HHP were applying for planning permission for the path between the estate and the playing field.

- The planned beach clean-up at Holm for February was to be postponed indefinitely given the Covid19 Pandemic.
- An application for Crown Estate funding had been made to assist a Community clean up.
- A meeting had taken place between the CnES and Police Western Isles re speeding and other traffic issues in the Parkend and Mackenzie Park area. Traffic calming measures were being considered as a result.
- The bus shelter accommodation at Parkend continued to be an issue at school time; the shelter being of inadequate size to accommodate all those waiting. Rhoda Mackenzie asked how many children travelled by bus/waited in this area and what was the minimum distance children were allowed to walk to school?
- Cllr Nicolson and Sandy Morrison to discuss with a view to a letter being drafted to CnES.
- Parkend, Holm & Mackenzie Park: food parcels continued to be distributed in the area from a grant of £2k funding with a further £5k due imminently for both food and electricity vouchers.
- Home discount schemes were ongoing with @ £1k assistance with Electricity bills.

Point & Sandwich Trust Pandemic Services:

The meal delivery service set up by P&ST, with support from both Sandwich and Point CCs, had by this time delivered some 8483 meals throughout the Point & Sandwich areas to some 41 households in Point and 31, in Sandwich.

Three, local, people had gained employment as a result of this service being set up.

SCF had agreed to an extension to funding to allow the service to continue. With a contribution of £4.5k from each of Point & Sandwich Community Councils, this would allow the service to continue over the Festive period. Point CC had already agreed to this and Sandwich CC agreed also(A/c balance currently £11k).

Anna MacFarlane, Treasurer and Duncan Mackay to arrange transfer of monies to P&ST.

Cllr Charlie Nicolson congratulated P&ST together with both Community Councils on the effectiveness of the project.

Sandwich Learning Centre: anticipated closure.

Rhoda Mackenzie asked if and how this may affect the running of Sandwich Hall?

As this was not yet clarified, it was suggested the issue should be raised at the upcoming Community Conversations.

Cllr Charlie Nicolson emphasised the continued importance of the associated utility arrangements to the hall and the wider community and preserving these. Sandy Morrison to draw up a letter as well as attending the Community Conversation.

It was further noted that the Sandwich Community Room was likely to go if the Education Centre facilities cease to be. Only a small number of pupils attend the facility and it seemed the facility was only in focus to save money; it being possible for the children and staff to be accommodated elsewhere.

Rhoda Mackenzie suggested, in the event, that SCC make a case for Sandwich School to become a community hub and safeguard the hall. It was imperative to create opportunities if the education provision for the building was withdrawn. The hub could possibly accommodate an office, shop and exhibition space; the lolaire being the obvious subject of the latter space.

Anna MacFarlane confirmed her new email address: annamacfarlane@uwclub.net

DONM: TBA