COMHAIRLE CHOIMHEARSNACHD SHLEITE

SLEAT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Sleat Community Council held at Ardvasar Hall on

Tuesday 20th October 2015

Present: Roddy Murray

Flora Maclean

Rob Ware

Margaret Colpus

Archie Mccalman

In Attendance: Una Macleod, David Ashford, Roger Cottis, Veana Cleland, Jan Clarke, Jamie Macdonald, Lavinia Kier, Andy Nieson, Tim Shone, JD MacInnes

Apologies: Pauline Lyle

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 1st September were moved by Flora and seconded by Rob Ware. Jan Clarke added that only one vacancy for a gardener at CDLT was available and not two as entered on the minute.

**Matters Arising**

Roddy Murray opened the meeting at 1930.

Roddy had attended a Leader Meeting in July which is the start of the process to obtain European funding for Scotland and a further meeting will take place in November.

Roddy gave an update on Scottish Water issues after a meeting with their representatives in July. Principally the meeting was about the introduction of a new chloramination plant at the Teangue works which has now been given Planning Permission. This is a process to reduce the small and taste of chlorine in the public water supply. SW also have confirmed there will not be a permanent generator at Stonefield but temporary generators will be procured. We will continue to work with the Company on these range of issues.

There is no change to the Winter Operations Plan from Highland Council in respect of road gritting and clearing. The same plan has been in existence for over 10 years.

The full programme of Community Council meetings for 2016 has been published on the website and passed to Kyle Police Station for their information.

**Agenda:**

**Community Council Elections**

Roddy outlined the process for the Community Council elections that are to take place on the 18th November when the existing Councils are dissolved. Five nominations have been proposed and accepted to form a new Sleat Community Council. This means that no ballot is required. These are Roddy Murray, Robert Ware, John Duncan MacInnes, Veana Cleland and Kirsty MacGonagall. SCC has a quota of no more than 8 Councillors so currently this enables two further slots to be filled if required, through co-option. This will take place in January. We can also appoint Associate Members and this can be dealt with when the new SCC convenes. Rob stated that 105 Councils have been convened, 20 Councils have not been able to formed due to lack of numbers and other Councils will require a ballot. A new attempt will be made in January to form Councils that did not get the candidates in the autumn. Notable councils were Raasay, Kyle and Arisaig.

**Roads and Planning**

Rob Ware reported that there have been no Planning Applications for the Sleat area since the last meeting, and as a rule the Community Council will not comment on any specific application unless it was mandated to do so, such as the Loch Eishort aquaculture sites. The SCC did recently write a letter of support for the SW Chloramination Plant and one resident was advised to make a comment on the Planning Application if that person had concerns about the introduction of such a process.

Roads: There are still several areas of Sleat that have on-going hazards, the first being at 1 Aird and the damaged bridge at Tokavaig. Rob Ware advised that he would photograph both sites and forward these to Highland Council for follow-up. We are hoping to arrange a site in early 2016 with all parties with an interest in the speed-limit zone around the new agricultural shed at Tokavaig. The otter mitigation at the Kinloch Farm is still outstanding following two road accidents at the site which damaged the facilities.

Roddy had a copy of the Winter Plan and suggested that it would be worthwhile residents reporting any issues that may be of concern. The Plan is available on request.

**CalMac Summer Schedule Changes 2016 Mallaig Armadale**

Roddy announced that there have been major changes to the CHFS services planned for Summer 2016 with the MV Coruisk going to Mull, and introducing a smaller vessel and the Lord of the Isles. This followed the Transport Minister’s statement on 22nd September. The Sleat Transport Forum, managed under the SCC, convened a session and formally issued a response to CalMac on 1st October. Rob Ware gave an update on what has transpired so far and this has been shown in full on the Sleat Transport Forum on the SCC website. As matters progress the page will be updated and it is expected that we will meet with CalMac’s officials as soon as possible. The STF is continuing to lobby many parties opposing the proposals and we will report back to the community and publish updates using the web and social media channels. There was a brief discussion amongst the meeting and items included the shortage of coach space, the prospect of 20 year-old vessels formally used on the Kyle/Kyleakin, and the suitability of a Hybrid vessel, and the infrastructure at Armadale Pier. It is hoped that the meeting with officials will allow STF to fully outline its concerns. The STF is disappointed that no consultation had taken place with the community for over one month. Roddy repeated that it is still the long-held aspiration to have a year-round vessel that is capable of operating in all conditions with appropriate passenger facilities. Rob Ware reminded that the recently released movie ‘Macbeth’ would bring more visitors especially with the introduction this month of RET. Roddy also stated that the carbon footprint would be reduced vehicles coming on the ferry saving 60 miles as against via the Skye Bridge.

**Sleat War Memorial**

Roddy gave an update on the current status of the Sleat War Memorial and issues relating to it. It is in need of repair and suitable access. The SCC met with representatives of the Highland Council and so decisions will need to be made, and this includes the location and works required. Roddy attended a workshop in Inverness with the HC and War Memorials Trust and called for a public forum to assess the issues. Jan Clarke advised that Dunvegan CC had been allocated funds to improve their memorial including access and suggested that the CC get in touch with them. Rob added that a paper has been produced as a basis for discussion and we are now awaiting Highland Council to provide some draft costs of several options available at this time. This is a sensitive issue and must be handled accordingly.

**HC Public Consultations**

A new series of consultations is commencing this month and this includes new grants for community transport. Rob gave an update on the issues facing Sleat in transport issues, and it is believed that the SCT will again submit an application for the subsidised taxi service. Roddy looked to funding from Leader to assess the overall requirements for localised public transport. A workshop is to be held in Broadford on 26th October to review all public transport operations ahead of a new tender for bus transport in 2017. The Highland Wide Development Plan is also now subject to the next round of consultation.

**Sleat Transport Forum**

Rob Ware gave a brief update on the reasons for establishing the Sleat Transport Forum earlier this year and of the importance in such issues such as the CalMac changes for Summer 2016. It is also of vital importance to ensure the community has an input to such issues as coordination of schedules between the various public transport providers. We have already notified Stagecoach, Highland Council and Scotrail of the major changes planned with the ferry service from March 2016.

**Sleat Community Trust**

Rob reminded that the SCT AGM is next week and there are vacancies for three Trustees. All are welcome to attend on the 28th October at 1900.

**Deer Management Plan**

Rob updated on recent meetings that have taken place for the process a deer management plan, specifically the Estates. Jan Clarke gave a brief update of the current status and pre-empting any SNH plan next year. This will ensure that a more localised and the SCC welcomes what has been achieved so far. Jan said that there will be the opportunity for input from all locals who have an interest and the Community Council will be the focal point for the community.

**Correspondence**

None

**Public Discussion**

Rob reminded that the next CDLT coffee morning takes place this week on the 23rd and this is a good opportunity for people to hear about what has been happening at CDLT and plans for the future. This will be the third in a series of such events held at the Café. There will also be a series of coffee mornings.

Flora raised an issue with a passing place in Stonefield and there is an issue with the road service at the eastern end of the Skye Bridge. Rob will chase these up with the relevant agencies.

Jamie Macdonald thanked the CC for allowing him to attend the meeting and has found it very useful. He wanted to re-iterate the work that has been done by Jan and the team at the Clan this year and the plans for the future and to change the attitude that the community has to the Clan. They are looking at more ways to make the CDLT more sustainable and become more friendly within the community. Roddy said how much the CDLT contributes to the community, and Jan stated that she would fight hard to protect jobs at the Trust. Rob said that in the case of ferries it was important to continue to ensure we have a good service, not helped by under-investment and a belief that Mallaig to Armadale is an ‘expendable’ route. The MP’s and MSP’s have been kept up to date of Sleat’s serious concerns and the First Minister is visiting tomorrow so we hope there may be an opportunity for this to be raised.

Veana Cleland mentioned that she felt the grass verges were in a very poor state in Sleat as compared to other parts of Skye and Lochalsh. What is the funding for this?

Andy Neison welcomed Roddy’s earlier statement about carbon footprints.

Roger Cottis said that huge infrastructure resources had been made on both the A830 and A851 and a reduction in capacity on the linking ferry service would negate this community benefit.

Una mentioned about speeding on the A851 and had noted a number of incidents locally. Rob will write to PS asking if more speed checks to be carried out in Sleat, resources permitting. Archie Maccalman referred also to the Armadale end.

Roddy thanked all of those who had served on the Community Council in this session and we look forward to the new Council being formed in early 2016 and added thanks to members of the public for attending and their committed input.

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**The meeting closed at 2100 with the next meeting on 12th January 2016 at Ardvasar Hall**