COMHAIRLE CHOIMHEARSNACHD SHLEITE

SLEAT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Sleat Community Council held at Seomar Cruinneachaidh

Tuesday 4th December 2018

Present:

Rob Ware

Tim Shone

Flora Maclean

Kirsty McGonagall

Veana Cleland

Roddy Murray

Apologies: John Duncan MacInnes

In Attendance:

Roger Cottis, William Swann, Ruth Swann, Donnie McKinnon, James Milne

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting 6th November 2018**

Roddy Murray welcome those present to the last meeting of 2018.

The minutes of the meeting of were moved by Tim Shone and Flora Maclean

**Matters Arising:**

Roddy updated on the healthcare redesign group and had written to Ross Mackenzie of NHS who said that the review was for the north and that SCC have no need to be represented on the working group. All the meetings are held in Portree. SCC will monitor progress.

Agenda

**Venues 2019:**

Rob outlined that the meetings are rotated around four locations but with some venues charging the debate needs to be had as to whether we continue or centralise on SMO. It was reported that Ardvasar Hall, SMO and Tarskavaig are all free. Tim Shone felt that it was good to rotate between locations so as to be inclusive and so it was decided to reduce An Crubh to one session per year. Attendances at all locations are still low, despite the work that the Community Council does. The website will be updated to reflect this. Posters will be produced for notice boards and the venues/dates.

**Community Councils Review**

Rob advised that HC had organised a one-day workshop in Inverness on 24th November, but we declined to attend on cost grounds. HC have now sent a questionnaire asking about our meetings and engagement with elected members. We have completed this and expressed our concerns in respect of our designated member. Roddy then briefly updated on the process for the Commission on Highland Democracy and this led to a debate amongst councillors. The process of this review is ongoing, and we have heard nothing more. The SCC made it clear that it does not want to merge with any other areas. Tim described the comments in the Commission’s report as ‘slanderous’. Roddy added that 75% of the Highlands population is located in rural areas and that Inverness and Moray Firth.

**Highland Council Budget Consultation**

 Rob spoke of the HC’s budget consultation and the process to get views on how money can be saved. This coincided with the tour of Highland Council areas by the new CEO Donna Manson. It is plain for all to see that HC is so cash-strapped that no stone is left unturned in seeking savings. Roddy recalled HC making vast charges increase for use of Uig Pier some years ago.

**Kelp Dredging**

Rob updated on the recent process with the company Marine Biopolymers which had applied for a licence to harvest kelp in an industrial scale on the west coast and islands. This had been raised at a previous meeting by Tim Shone. In a recent debate in Parliament the Scot Gov had voted not to allow the development and that the whole issue would be further examined in the wider context.

**Roads Update**

Rob reported that the work to be done outside of the Ardvasar Hotel is due to be commenced on 7th January 2019. The issue of the white-lining at the top of the A851 Sleat road. Some white-lining has been done at the college areas. The distillery also has a problem with the lack of white-lining. James Milne raised the issue of leaves on the footpath between the college junction and Mill Bridge. Rob will raise this immediately with HC. It was noted that the trees along that road are hanging over the carriageway. Donnie McKinnon noted that the main Sleat road is breaking up in a number of places and this will be raised at the next meeting with HC Roads team.

**Planning**

The application for PODS at the Ardvasar Hotel is still ongoing and a new drawing has been submitted. A further application for six staff PODS at Isle Ornsay opposite the Old School House has been submitted by Fearann Eilean Iarmain. William Swann referred to the document that has been submitted to the application for pods at the Ardvasar Hotel that has since been removed from the Council’s website. There is some confusion as to what the longer-term plan is for the hotel. A discussion followed on the two issues involving pods. Roddy Murray asked if the SCC should write to Highland Council for clarification on the aspiration for the pod proposals. Rob will write to Tim Stott from Development Plans of Highland Council. It may be that SCC will agree that a letter will be sent to the Case Officer.

**CalMac**

Rob said that the Forum had submitted proposals for some enhanced services in Winter 2019/20. This centres around Loch Bhrusda supplementing the Lochnevis for some periods during the season. Rob has asked Highland Council’s Ward Manager for feedback on the Leader’s meeting with the Ministers. Rob and Roddy are attending the Ferry Users Group in Fort William tomorrow and Rob will attend the Mallaig-Armadale STAG meeting on the 10th. It was raised that the traffic issues at Armadale Pier have still not been brought to the table and we will chase this up.

**Deer Management**

Tim updated on a number of issues locally and reminded that FEI was still ‘going it alone’ and will not work with the South Skye Deer Management Group. Janes Milne spoke of accidents on the Sleat road in the last twelve months. Tim will continue to report on deer management issues to the SCC.

**AOCB**

Rob advised that SCC has received a letter from Scottish Woodlands regarding the harvesting of the Brae Ord forest which is expected in 2019. Rob will write back on two issues, future recreational use and the reinstatement of the cattle grid 75m along the Ord road that will assist in managing deer movements. Harvesting at Tormore has been resumed.

Potholes were discussed, and key areas identified to bring to the attention of Highland Council.

Kirsty raised the issue of the poor state of the boy’s toilets at the school which has been taken up with HC.

The meeting closed at 2110 and the next meeting will be in February at Ardvasar Hall. It was agreed that the January meeting will be cancelled due to holidays. One agenda item will be to discuss Mark Devries recent paper on Climate Change.

Roddy wished all a very Happy Christmas and for a good New Year.