‘COMHAIRLE CHOIMHEARSNACHD SHLEITE’

SLEAT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Sleat Community Council held at Ardvasar Hall

Tuesday 6th February

Present: Roddy Murray

Rob Ware

Tim Shone

Veana Cleland

Flora Maclean

Kirsty McGonagall

Apologies: John Duncan MacInnes

In Attendance: Una Macleod, Kevin Donnolly, Roger Cottis, David Ashford, Lysana Robinson, William Swann, James Milne, Sam Graham

----------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting 5th December 2017**

The minutes of the meeting of were moved by Tim Shone and Veana Cleland.

**Matters Arising**

Roddy Murray said that the closure of the Kyle RBS branch has been deferred until the end of 2018.

**Agenda**

**Health Care Redesign**

Rob Ware gave a brief update on what was known of the status of the health and social care redesign for Skye/Lochalsh and SW Ross. Sir Lewis Ritchie has now been appointed by NHSH to look at the redesign again, but it will not affect the siting of the new hospital in Broadford. The Community Council has always supported the aspirations of the north end. Rob had recently given a telephone interview with the WHFP who were soliciting views across the whole area. The Sleat surgery will remain closed on Wednesdays but there are no plans known to close the surgery. We will ask the Practice Manager to come to a meeting and update generally. Roddy said that we support the need for better facilities in the north of the island. GPs in rural areas is still an issue a problem in recruitment. Una Macleod asked if there were any changes planned for the An Acarsaid care home in Broadford, nothing was known.

**Sleat War Memorial**

Rob gave an update on the public meeting that was held on the 11th January to discuss the Sleat War Memorial and its refurbishment. The minutes of that meeting are now on the SCC website and the conclusion was that the Memorial would stay in its current position ahead of refurbishment. Funding is being secured from the Council and the War Memorials Trust. These funds have to be secured by 31st March 2018 to comply with the terms of the fund. There is still the issue of securing the WM site by means of a stock fence. There will now be a dialogue between Clan Donald Lands Trust, its advisors, the Council and the tenant of 6 Kilmore. Rob will update the community as required using the Facebook page. It is hoped that this dialogue can be resolved quickly so as not to lose the momentum of gaining support from the Sleat community for additional funding for items such as the stock fence etc. Roddy spoke of the liability issues from the problem of livestock running across the WM site. Rob will continue to petition the parties including the Council and CDLT for news.

**Roads/Ardvasar Footpath/Planning**

A site meeting had taken place this morning for the Ardvasar Footpath project. Roddy updated that funds had now been secured for the work including HC/CDLT/SCC/Access Officer and hopefully SCT. Work should start in early March by a specialist contractor and 3 load of ‘tar-shavings’ would be delivered to Ardvasar. The councillors were asked to agree that the SCC donate £500 to the cost. This was agreed by all those attending. No donations have been given to Sleat groups this year. Rob said he thought this was a good community issue, used by locals and residents, and should be supported. Roger Cottis asked who would maintain the path after the work, this is CDLT land and so would likely to be the Trust. William Swann thanked the SCC for supporting this project which will be a benefit to all.

The only Planning Application for Sleat this month is for new accommodation cabins at Hotel Eilean Iarmain for staff use. James Milne asked if it was known that there was a project to provide staff accommodation at the Ardvasar Hotel. Nothing is known at this point.

**Tourism**

Rob advised of the recent CNN online article that included Skye as one of 12 places in the world not to visit in 2018. This caused a major backlash from the tourism groups and a formal complaint was made by the CEO of Visit Scotland to CNN. Publicity such as this does not help promote Skye as an amazing place to visit which is expected to see further growth in 2018. Rob is meeting the Councillors with SkyeConnect/HIE/Vis Scotland next week on general tourism issues and what is being done to address major issues like roads, parking and public toilets. Una Macleod commented that there is little food available for visitors during the winter months. The Broadford Hotel recently said there was no chef available to provide food service. There was a brief discussion about the viability of providing public toilets across the island at the key hotspots and parking at those areas. Rob would write to the Ward Manager and see if a Councillor would attend the March meeting.

**CalMac**

Rob updated on CalMac and this summer would be the Lord of the Isles and MV Loch Fyne, the same as 2017. It is proposed that the MV Coruisk will return in 2019 but the timing of this will depend on the delivery of the new vessel to Uig which will then mean the Hebrides goes to Mull. Rob is doing a piece for the West Highland Free Press this week following the publication of the Vessel Replacement Deployment Plan. The Forum will continue to monitor performance on the route this summer and continue to press for a dedicated vessel on the Mallaig route capable of operating year-round. Mini-timetables will be available in the port office from 9th March. Roddy thanked Sam Graham for all the good work the CalMac team at Armadale so, and they are a credit to the company. William Swann echoed that. Sam added that the MV Lochnevis only books 9 cars with two locally placed ‘ghost cars’ that can be released locally. Rob added that since many of the vessels were built in the 80s and 90s cars have now increased in size and length so reducing capacity by up to 30%. Rob will write to HIE in Portree to ask for assistance in data gathering to support our aspiration for enhanced future winter service.

AOCB

Veana advised that the Post Box at Kilmore has now had some remedial work done by the Council and so now there is no need for it to be relocated.

Tim Shone asked about opportunities for a skip to be provided in south Skye or Sleat. James Milne suggested that a facility could be located at the Broadford HC depot and he felt it unfair that south Skye staff must go to Portree to deposit domestic waste. The bulky uplift charge is now £21.00. Flora Maclean will ask the HC for advice.

**Public Discussion**

Una asked about the public transport options when the new hospital is open. She added will buses go up to the hospital or just remain on the A87. This will be followed up when the SCC reps meet with Sir Lewis Richie at end Feb/beginning of March.

William Swann updated on news from HIE. The development budget remains much the same as in previous years but there will be more emphasis on rural areas. It’s around £100m for this year and HIE’s biggest investment has been the Inverness Campus which has many facets including job creation, life sciences, a fish health company and an extension to the Centre for Rural Health. The campus is now attracting world attention and William suggested he would be happy provide a presentation to a later meeting on the overall project and how this will also benefit the rural communities across Highland. We will try to schedule this at An Crubh for the April meeting.

Willie raised the issue of Ardvasar Hall and if there is to be an AGM this year? He suggested that the Hall Committee advise the Community Council of the date and this can be circulated to residents through the website and social media as well as the Sleat Calendar. This would allow as many people as possible with an interest in the Hall to attend. Rob mentioned that there was a drop-in session earlier that day hosted by SEALL for people who wish to access the calendar and to be able to input entries. Event organisers and groups should be encouraged to sign-up to get maximum coverage for an event or meeting etc.

David Ashford mentioned about a professor named Ian Gilchrist who is a world-renowned expert on neurology who lives on Skye.

Una Macleod asked if it was known how much is paid to the flying club at Broadford airstrip. None known.

The meeting closed at 2115 with the next meeting to be held at Tarskavaig Hall on 6th March at 1930.