COMHAIRLE CHOIMHEARSNACHD SHLEITE

SLEAT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Sleat Community Council held at Seomar Cruinneachaidh

Tuesday 3rd September 2019

Present:

Rob Ware

Tim Shone

Flora Maclean

Veana Cleland

Roddy Murray

Kirsty McGonagall

Apologies: John Duncan MacInnes

In Attendance: Roger Cottis, David Ashford, Una Macleod, Marion White, Lysana Robinson, Martin MacGillivray, Margaret MacGillivray, Sherry Palmer, Andy Williamson, Veronica Barrington, Pat Cottis and Councillor John Finlayson.

**Minutes of the Previous 7th May 2019**

Roddy Murray welcomed members of the pubic to the meeting and especially to Councillor Finlayson. Following feedback at the AGM each member of the Community Council introduced themselves.

The minutes of the meeting of were moved by Veana Cleland and seconded by Flora Maclean.

**Matters Arising:**

Martin McGillivray reminded that SCT had donated £500 to the English medium group at Sleat Primary.

Rob Ware updated on the Brae Ord forest felling project by Scottish Woodlands and Roger Cottis noted the exclusion zones around protected habitats.

Roddy Murray updated on the administration of Ferguson Marine in Glasgow but it will be some significant time before the vessels are completed whether this be by a private business or a nationalised shipyard. Rob added further comment on the recent events and what the process will be to advise the country timescale and costs.

**Agenda**

**Community Council Elections**

There will be new CC elections this autumn which is a four yearly cycle and Rob Ware read out the papers that had been published by Highland Council. All of this will be shown on the SCC website and the Facebook. If anyone wishes to put their names forward, they can complete the nomination forms and send these to the Council. Closing date 8th October.

**Public Consultations**

Rob Ware advised of the principal public consultations currently underway including the Road Equivalent Tariff from October 2015 including Mallaig Armadale. In addition, there are consultations for the National Transport Strategy, Transient Visitor Levy, and short term lets. Residents are encouraged to participate and share their views with the public agencies. Roddy added re the RET fares have encouraged much more tourism but the infrastructure and the investment has not matched the needs of the initiative. Roddy added that £10m (the project income from a TVL in the HC) will not go far across the region and Skye will not benefit and much will go to the Inner Moray Firth area. Roddy expressed concern regarding the public transport in our area and Rob gave a brief update on the recent problems with the tidal timetables and reminded that there will be additional services to and from Mallaig from 2nd March 2020. Roddy added the ultimate aspiration is to have a dedicated vessel that can operate all year round with sufficient capacity and no tidal restrictions. Veana Cleland was disappointed that things had changed since the Coruisk was removed in 2016.

**Roads/Tourism**

Rob updated on the help given by the Highland Council roads team recently to clear vegetation for the use of mobility vehicles on the pathways between Ferrindonald and Armadale and that a letter of thanks had been sent. Councillor Finlayson said that the Winter Roads Programme will be published imminently and the issues affecting roads from a heavy tourism presence. A meeting is to be held with the Council’s convener on specific Skye issues and that the Rural Tourism Fund was really established because of pressure in Skye. HC budget for roads is £7m per annum and the total road required for HC is around £200m to get the status quo of road standards. HC wrote to Scot Gov to release £0.5bn of the national budget underspend to local authorities for roads which was declined. John Finlayson added that if residents and organisations do wish to respond to the TVL consultation the key message would be that income generated in Skye should be returned to Skye for local infrastructure issues. Parking charges are also key to assisting revenue and would create capital to allow investment. John Finlayson updated on the Fort William parking charges but some other areas of Highland do not want to introduce such charges. Inverness does subsidise much of the region. Roger Cottis said that his view of the roads is of major concern to all.

**Mallaig-Armadale STAG**

Rob said that the STAG project had been completed and that a final stakeholders meeting would take place in October and would report back when he could. The other part is the Short Life Working Group for the traffic management issues at Armadale, this is ongoing and is targeted for completion by the start of the summer season 2020 at the end of March. The lack of white-lining resources means that Skye only gets infrequent visits. The SCC has had no success with ROS as to the ownership of the former shop indent, opposite Skyelark.

**Planning Applications**

The application has now been made to site the temporary cabins at the CDLT shed area for the Armadale Stores with the cabins coming mid-September and opening end of November. This will be for c 40 weeks. Roddy welcomed the development and encouraged all to support the shop. Martin MacGillivray said that shop turnover had gone up 40% in the past year but it was reminded that there will be no fuel available during the redevelopment. Rob updated on the dunnage warehouse and there is likelihood that the layout will be reversed so as to protect views of the area. The decision is still under consideration by HC.

**Sleat Primary School**

John Finlayson updated on the primary school proposals now adopted. This is in relation to early learning and childcare of 3- and 4-year olds up to 1140 hours. Option 1 of 2 was adopted and Gaelic immersion continues. It was agreed that £250k would be earmarked for parking and other facilities. Andy Williamson as a new resident is a question has questioned Gaelic immersion learning or was this more about fiscal based issues. Councillor Finlayson said this was HC policy and the agreement was made at the resources board. Mr Williamson asked is there is a policy statement and is there a document. JF said officers of the council had agreed. Mr Williamson wanted to be comfortable that the Council is fully supportive of the process. He will be contacting the Council to ask the detail rather than raising an FOI.

**Budget and Grants**

Flora Maclean advised that the grant had risen from £435.00 to £525.00 and John Finlayson still offered the Ward Discretionary Fund for £300 or thereabouts. We will discuss at the October meeting. Community Councils have to pay £86 for insurance. Rob updated the AGM Minutes, Chairs Report and Treasurers Report as well as a letter to SCC from a local resident and details of the Armadale Pier works.

**Deer Control Group**

Tim Shone had nothing to report other than there is no more felling at Tormore for two years. Finances at the DCG are good. Rob also said that we had received the FEI Forest Plan.

**AOCB**

Mr Williamson asked about the recent signs installed on the Ord loop and why there was not a graphic but whilst we have international visitors, we were restricted in what could be procured.

**Public Discussion**

Marion White when the lining works at Armadale will be done. It is in hand but is dependent on both weather and the availability of the rig. Una asked about the bus at Ardvasar and space taken up to prohibit the public service to that point. The next meeting will be Tarskavaig 1st October.