COMHAIRLE CHOIMHEARSNACHD SHLEITE

SLEAT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Sleat Community Council held at Seomar Cruinneachaidh on Tuesday 10T March 2015 at 7.30 PM

Present Roddy Murray

Janet Maclure

Rob Ware

Flora Maclean

Margaret Colpus

In Attendance: Una Macleod, Peter Roberts, Charles Barrington, Lavinia Keir, Roger Cottis, Veana Cleland, Christine Martin, Polly MacInnes, John Duncan MacInnes, Kevin Donnelly, Andy Neison, Donald Angaidh MacLennan, Alasdair Fraser, Roddy Robertson

Apologies: Archie Maccalman, Pauline Lyle

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting on 6th January were moved by Janet and seconded by Rob

**Matters Arising**

None not covered by tonight’s agenda. Roddy said that Scottish Water had equipment in Tarskavaig but it was not known what it was for.

**Presentation by Tim Stott, Principal Planner Highland Council**

The Highland Council are commencing the process for the new West Highlands and Islands Local Plan which is a requirement of the Scottish Government. The Community Council asked Tim Stott, Principal Planner to present to the March meeting about the scheme and the public consultation process. The presentation can be accessed at the following link

https://www.dropbox.com/s/1w28jzvzn4f43qw/Sleat%20CC%20Presentation.pdf?dl=0

and the Council’s page for the new Plan can be found at this link <http://www.highland.gov.uk/whildp> Given the length of the presentation and the following Q and A session we have decided not to print the full minute of that section. All are encouraged to make comment to the Council via the link as this will give residents the opportunity to help shape development in Sleat in the years to come. An audio recording of the whole meeting is available on request from the Secretary.

**Sleat Transport Forum**

Roddy updated on current issues with the Sleat TF including the A87 speed limit impositions. This has now been rescinded and welcomed by all. Roddy attended a HITRANS meeting in Dingwall which was about the services on the north and west Highland lines. Club 55 rail scheme is being revised to be Club 50 with the reduction to all passengers age 50 and above. The recent inaugural meeting of STF was poorly attended. We will be watching and inputting the ferry tendering process and examining schedules co-ordination in more detail.

**Scottish Water**

SW recently advised that have commenced the commissioning stage 12-14 weeks at the Teangue works but this would not affect public supply. We will continue to petition the Company and Highland Council to ensure an acceptable public water system will be available in the years to come especially with the continuing growth in the area.

**Customer Services Review**

Roddy outlined the brief history of the Service Review and recent meetings have taken place and that now Kyle is proposed to be retained. The Review recommends closure of the Broadford location and as a result the joint Community Councils in south Skye have made a deposition to the HC. The Secretary will send these submissions to the consultation team. Roddy pointed out that savings on closing Broadford would be minimal and echoed that many rural services continue to be axed across the remote Highland region. Rob had had a conversation with the Chair of the Review and gave our views especially a perception that the Report’s authors were totally out of touch with rural areas.

**Roads and Planning Updates**

Rob had sent a letter to the WHFP offering appreciation to the HC roads team for their efforts during the recent poor weather. Flora Maclean disagreed and felt that there had been problems across the peninsula and this was due to the cuts in resources in equipment and manpower. We will continue to ensure the best possible road servicing for our area. Work on the Stonefield culvert started on 10th March and Rob updated on the white-lining issue at the SMO entrance.

No notable Planning issues this month.

**A87 Review**

Rob read out the letter from Transport Scotland advising that the recommendation on the reduction of the speed limits on the A87. A copy of this letter is available on request. Rob had been progressing the issue with Transport Scotland on the serviceability of the traffic cameras on the Skye Bridge, and it is hoped public access to that will be restored for the trafficscotland website within 3 months.

**Sleat War Memorial**

Rob had finally arranged for the Council to meet on site at the WM which has been subject of proposed refurbishment for some time now. Due to the adverse weather Roddy and Rob could not attend but the HC have now seen the site and made some detailed recommendations. This is to be passed to the War Memorials Trust who have funds available for some aspects of the work. The issue of access still needs to be reviewed and so this project will be a slow process.

**Aquaculture Applications**

Rob gave an update on the slow process on these submissions and at present the Highland Council cannot advise what the status of these. A recent email was sent to the Officer expressing concerns at the extensive delays to the process.

**School Path**

This project is now ‘on hold’ because of access issues and so it is now up to the school and parent-council.

**Grants and Donations**

Flora advised that there is £460 left in the account. There has been a request to for funds from the Sleat Lunch Club, but at present no donations have been made to the Community Nurses. This will be reviewed at the April Meeting of the SCC. Lavinia Kier asked if the equipment that has been previously purchased is stored in Broadford and therefore used outside of Sleat. We will pursue this with the Lead Community Nurse.

**Correspondence**

None

**AOCB**

Roddy said that he had had an email from the Rural Housing Trust asking for sites to be identified in areas for affordable housing. This has been passed to SMO and a meeting will take place on 11th March with organisation and officers of SMO.

A letter from NFU Scotland had been received about the creation of woodland areas and its impact on farm and croft land. This is a warning issue and among other recommendations is greater control of deer management and the importance of community engagement.

**Public Discussion**

Andy Neison appreciated the letter that we had sent to the HC re the roads team. He also suggested a cycle track along the road between Teangue and Broadford using the old road around the black lochs. He also suggested an aspiration for a community orchard and it was said that he should speak with the SCT’s Environment Group. Roddy echoed that a cycle track would be good for all.

Roger Cottis asked if a meeting had taken place following the sessions with Forestry Commission about the Clan Donald forestry project. Rob Ware said that the changeovers at the CDLT had meant this had not been progressed but recent correspondence suggests that some efforts have been secured to ensure better consultation in the future. Flora Maclean felt that a meeting with the parties should still take place because of ‘unfinished’ business. Rob said that there had been no further response from those who had raised the issues last June so that was there any mileage is resurrecting a dialogue. The Grazings Committees were continuing to raise the issues of deer management and Roger had sent otter information. Rob felt that it was Miller Harris who was responsible for the project and that it was his failures that has led to the situation that we find today. Rob asked if the Council felt that a new meeting with all parties was required then this could be done but was there any real benefit. As these issues appear still to be unresolved then SCC will write to FCS for their update before we meet with the CDLT and others. Margaret suggested we speak to Jan Clarke in the first instance.

We will endeavour to arrange a meeting of all interested parties in due course.

Roger Cottis asked if there had been any further word about the capacity issues of Loch Carmichael and possibly raising the loch levels. There is an otter issue and so Roger wished this to be retained on the agenda. Roddy said that he thought SW would have to find an alternative source of water in the years to come.

Veana asked about the cable drums at Brae Ord that have been left after the works. Rob will write to the Roads Team and have them removed.

The meeting closed at 2150 with the next meeting on 7th April at Ardvasar Hall.