COMHAIRLE CHOIMHEARSNACHD SHLEITE

SLEAT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

Tuesday 2nd March 2016

Present: Roddy Murray

Rob Ware

Kirsty McGonagall

Tim Shone

Flora Maclean

Veana Cleland

Apologies: John Duncan MacInnes

In Attendance: Louise Pinkney, Meg Bateman, Peter Roberts, Roger Cottis, David Ashford, Val Piddock, Peter Piddock, Donald MacGregor, Janet MacGregor, Effie Murray, Donald Mackenzie, Jan Clarke, Angus Macdonald, Ishbel Macdonald, Graeme McPherson, Penny McPherson, Lavinia Kier, Aine Duncan, Kate Ruskin

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Roddy Murray welcomed members of the public for their attendance.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting 2nd February 2016**

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

**Matters Arising**

Roddy Murray spoke of the Community Council Training Session at Kyleakin in February.

Roger Cottis reminded about the otter mitigation measures at Kinloch and Rob responded that he had forwarded the email to Andrew Hunter of Highland Council. A response is awaited.

An email has been sent to Police Scotland about excessive speeding on the main road in Sleat. This followed a request from Kirsty MacGonagall. The Council has asked PS to schedule some traffic patrols around the School area, Ardvasar and at Teangue.

Diane Burgess, the Communities Manager for Scottish Water arrived at the meeting, despite a difficult journey.

Peter Roberts asked that an item be corrected regarding a path in the Tormore Forest around the fank and the school area us yet to be built rather than has been built as per the minute.

**Agenda**

**Scottish Water Update**

Roddy welcomed Diane Burgess and thanked her for coming on what was a difficult journey. It is 5 years since Scottish Water first announced plans to introduce changes to the public supply and that there had been extensive dialogue with SW since then. A number of projects have been proposed and introduced and the Meeting would be grateful for updates on some of the key issues. It was recognised that Diane was new in post and that she might not be able to specifically, at this time, give full updates but would respond to SCC with that as soon as possible.

Ms Burgess outlined that the Teangue works for the sand filters has been completed and no reports have been received that it is fully operational. No further tanker operations have been required during the winter. It was mentioned about the recent transport of generators to the plant had caused some damage to the verges, but this has been resolved. The road to the Teangue WTW is difficult for larger vehicles.

The Chloramination project is likely to start soon but it will be smaller equipment and no major issues are foreseen.

Donald Mackenzie reminded that in Tarskavaig when power is lost the ability to pump water to homes is therefore lost and asked about the use of a permanent/temporary generator. Donald added that he was not too happy with smell and taste. Rob reminded that customers should contact the SW Help-Line with any issues regarding their supply. Diane outlined the process for dealing with such items such as complaints. Taste and odour do vary according to the source and changes in taste and odour can happen when sources change. Rob asked if there had been any trends in Sleat with public comments.

Diane Burgess outlined the process of chloramination which is adding a further chemical to disinfect the water and reduce the odour of chlorine. It is a process used extensively across Scotland and publications from SW are available for members of the public to learn more. Each plant has differing factors and the process is used mostly in the rural and remote areas of the north as well as the major towns. Customers have remarked that taste issues have been resolved in a number of areas by the use of the process.

The Teangue work will start in April and be completed by the autumn of 2016. Val Piddock asked about the chemical protocols and other technical issues. Diane will respond to the Council in an update on this and a number of other items as soon as possible following the SCC meeting. All sites are monitored remotely all connected with checking water as well as local inspections. There are three processes for the inspection.

Diane outlined the various regulatory authorities that govern public water supplies in Scotland.

Roddy then raised the issue of generators for occasions when the power supply is lost. Diane said that some plants have generators and there is an agreement where SSE provide large generators to SW at short notice. SCC had asked that a standby generator be made available for the Stonefield site. Rob asked if this be reviewed by SW and Diane will look in to this.

Roddy asked about the future and what the latest plans are for the source for Teangue. He gave a brief history of recent years and it was known that SW were planning an infrastructure review in 2017. The growth in Sleat remains considerable and so asked what would happen in years to come. Diane had attended a meeting the previous night where future planning was discussed at senior level. Leakage levels have been reduced across many of the supply sites and local network.

Roger Cottis asked Loch Carmichael being raised to increase the supply which would affect otter habitats. Diane will ask about this with her teams. Rob said that SCC were grateful for the presentation given by Neil Brennan in 2014 and this would be sent on to Diane for her information.

Val Piddock asked about tankers and what the process is for ensuring fully approved water.

Roddy thanked Ms Burgess for her input and we are grateful to her for coming out on such a night. Her area covers the Western Isles, Highland, Moray, and Aberdeen city and shire.

Diane thanked the community for its welcome and will commit to support where possible but does have a large area to cover.

**Police Scotland Update**

PS have not had a representative attend tonight so SCC will ask that an office attends in April.

**Sleat War Memorial**

Roddy confirmed that a public meeting will now take place on the 16th of March and this will be an opportunity to be debated in public and find a way forward for the good of all which is fitting and proper. Roddy said that he had attended a workshop in Inverness involving a number of agencies and this will be a topic for the SWM agenda. We are hoping to have an independent chair for the evening in light of the issues involved.

Rob concluded that it should be recognised that no decisions in any way have been made and an open and public debate will provide a fair forum to hear the varying views.

**Roads and Planning**

Roddy said that HC were losing people and so there has no major update from the Roads team. Veana Cleland outlined the issue of the tree cutting recently undertaken on a number of township roads. The Council is disappointed that the process has been badly handled and a letter was sent to the Roads team. It is understood that a follow-up has taken place with a chipper now going round to tidy up the debris from the process.

It was noted that there have been improvements to the gritting process, but there are still surface issues across the Sleat roads.

Rob said that white-lining has been scheduled for this year.

The recently announced cuts to the Highland Council will mean reductions in services but SCC will continue to keep up the dialogue with the Community Services team.

**CalMac Update**

Rob gave an update on the summer timetable and emphasised how it will be necessary to book on all services this year. Whilst the outcome is not what we would have liked the timetable has been ratified and we have to run with it. A new paper has been sent to CalMac and Transport Scotland for community aspirations for the winter 2016/2017 which will be considered as soon as possible. The proposal from the STF is for a minimum of 4 crossings per day Mon-Sat and three on Sundays. Rob outlined that there are mis-connections for trains in Mallaig, and there are plans for Shiel Buses to provide an earlier service from Mallaig to Fort William. Good connections are key to the success and we will report back on progress.

**Sleat Medical Centre**

Changes to IT systems at the south Skye practices mean that there will be some disruption April. The information from the Practice Manager is shown as an appendix to this minute.

**Torabhaig Distillery**

Rob outlined progress at the distillery including employment with the site opening at Easter 2017. Donald Mackenzie asked what the water supply will be for the distillery, it being the Toravaig Burn.

**Small Business Meeting**

Roddy will attend a Small Business Meeting on 3rd March and this may lead to the formation of a Chamber of Commerce type organisation. This is being sponsored by Highland Council and Business Gateway.

**AOCB**

Veana Cleland mentioned again about speeding on the main road which will be followed up.

Deer Management Group. Tim Shone updated on the current activity and outlined plans of the survey to count deer in Sleat. This will be scheduled for the next few weeks. Costs will be shared between FEI/CDLT/SCT/FCS/SGGC and will be managed by SNH on the day.

The April meeting of the SCC will allow funds to be distributed to causes in Sleat. Rob outlined that Community Council grants will be cut by 10% from April 2016.

Angus Robertson has now left the Trust, and the new fuel pumps are now fully operational at Armadale.

**Correspondence**

Highland Small Communities Trust has a new fund for self-build housing development. Any interest from Sleat can be supplied via the SCC. It could well apply to this area.

Members of the SCC have received coins from the Royal Mint to mark HM The Queen’s 90th Birthday.

**Public Discussion**

Lavinia Kier expressed concerns that excess vehicles at the Armadale Garage were causing hazards. Several options have been considered and this will be referred to the company concerned.

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**The meeting closed at 2100 with the next meeting on 5th April at 1930 at Duisdale Hall.**

**Appendix 1**

Email from Diane Burgess, Scottish Water following the SCC meeting 1st March.

The points I took away from our meeting 1/3/16 were :

Generator - I have spoken to colleagues and they have confirmed that Teangue WTW does indeed have a generator on site which can be used as a back up in the event of a failure in the normal power supply. Should the power fail, an Operator will attend site and ensure that the generator is working.

Otters in the area of the Weir – This was discussed and there is no plan to carry out work in this area at present.

Heavy Plant accessing the site and impacting on the roads- It is acknowledged that the road is not wide and that access to the WTW can be tight and whilst neither SW nor Contractors working on our behalf ever intend to cause damage, it is understood that an awareness of the access issues should be a primary consideration for intended work.

Ability of existing supply being able to meet demand – As previously stated, there are no problems with this for the foreseeable future but this will be monitored and regularly considered as it is across the country to ensure it is fit for purpose.

Pressure – The concern raised about the pressure affecting properties has been checked and the findings are that at the point of measurement, the pressure met the requirements of supply.

Chloramination – Work is progressing and the project will be completed by the end of the summer. As stated, all chemicals and construction materials which come into contact with Drinking Water require regulatory approval. All water supplies across Scotland are monitored, sampled and the standards must be met in accordance with the Public Water Supplies (Scotland) Regulations 2014. Any water quality failure resulting from the testing of samples taken, is reported to the Drinking Water Quality Regulator (DWQR), Health Protection Scotland, the Consultant in Public Health Medicine for the NHS Board and the Environmental Health Department at the local Council. Should the NHS have concerns around a potential risk to health from the water supplied, a restriction may be imposed on the supply e.g Boil before Use or Do not Drink , Cook.

Fact Sheets- A range of Fact Sheets are available on the SW Website Domestic Home Page >You and Your Home> Your Home Section> Customer Fact Sheets. There is one for Chloramination.

As regards concerns around the current pH being low for Chloramination, this part of the process is also being upgraded for Chloramination and will be optimised.

Appendix 2 IT Changes at Sleat Medical Centre

Information Technology Merger:

Broadford and Sleat Medical Practices

Broadford and Sleat practices are merging their data systems. For IT purposes Sleat will become a branch surgery of Broadford, but in other respects will continue as normal and will retain its dispensing service. The merged surgeries will be known as ‘South Skye Practices’. The dates planned for the IT merger are 20th and 21st April, but parts of the

computer system will be unavailable from 14th April until the merger is complete, possibly for Sleat not until 27 April.

Patients are asked to assist the practice by, wherever possible, avoiding asking for appointments or requesting repeat prescriptions between 14th April and about the 27th April.

The Practice Manager stresses that patients can still be seen and prescriptions printed during this period where necessary, but asks that this be kept to a minimum.

ON THE DAYS OF THE MERGER 20th to 22nd April only emergency appointments will be available. Please help the Practice get through this difficult time by getting ‘stocked up’ with repeat prescriptions in advance of the merger period, and please avoid contacting the surgery during this period unless it’s really necessary.

Travel Clinic

The surgery no longer offers a nurse-led Travel Clinic. Patients should, instead, collect a Travel Advice Form from the surgery 3 months before travelling, then visit the website http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/ We suggest you print off the list of vaccinations recommended for the country being visited. The information should then be returned to the surgery where a GP will advise on the appropriate treatment. Alternative arrangements can be made for patients who do not have internet access.