COMHAIRLE CHOIMHEARSNACHD SHLEITE

SLEAT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Sleat Community Council held at Tarskavaig Hakk

Tuesday 3RD October 2017

Present: Roddy Murray

Rob Ware

Tim Shone

Veana Cleland

Kirsty McGonagall

John Duncan MacInnes

Apologies: Flora Maclean

In Attendance: Una Macleod, Kevin Donnolly, Heather Dodgson, Veana Cleland, June Hamilton, Val and Peter Piddock

Roddy Murray welcomed everybody to the meeting and thanked them for coming on what is miserable night. He further added his congratulations that Rob has been appointed to the new CalMac Communities Board. Rob then outlined what the CB is about and how the process came about.

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

The minutes of the meeting of were moved by Kirsty and Veana

**Matters Arising**

Roddy Murray outlined the work being considered for the footpath between Ardvasar and Armadale

**Agenda**

**Skye, Lochalsh and SW Ross Health and Social Care**

Roddy Murray updated the meeting with the latest known information on the redesign of health and social care following Councillor Macdonald’s visit to meet Cabinet Secretary, together with the Leader of the Council. It would seem from Cllr’s Macdonald’s point of view that little was achieved and his views have been made public on his Facebook page. Assurances have been made widely in recent weeks that the hospital will be built in Broadford but groups and elected members continue to call for additional facilities to be provided in the north end of the island. Roddy noted that Sleat Community Council have never challenged these aspirations but felt that this debate would rumble on for some time. Roddy also read out one of the recent posts by Cllr. Macdonald that described ‘the rural area south of Portree’, and that the town was the tourist capital of the island. These personal views do not represent the views of all his constituents and this will have to be challenged at the appropriate time. Roddy added that these public statements have now reached an unacceptable and scare-mongering level including advising that people are now leaving the area to go to urban and other areas because of the lack of facilities. Rob challenged these statements as being without factual support and felt that this form of attack has now reached unacceptable levels. John Duncan MacInnes said he is not representing his constituents across the area and this is his own personal crusade. Roddy asked whether SCC should make any form of response to having heard these statements via social media. Peter Piddock asked if Cllr. Macdonald had any real basis for challenging the consultation that took place from 2014, and Roddy replied that the process had been endorsed by the Scottish Health Council. SCC will send copies of these social media post to the WHFP for information. Roddy suggested that perhaps Councillor Macdonald should be reported to the Standards Commission.

**Public Transport-Sleat Winter Bus Service**

Rob outlined that he and Roddy had met with two executives of Stagecoach earlier that day to talk about south Skye services from Armadale to Broadford and Portree for the winter. This was in light of the HC decision not to renew the 601-winter service previously operated by Maclean’s. There had been a discussion at the meeting about the issues surrounding the re-tendering of contracts which resulted in the disruption at the beginning of the summer season 2017. Stagecoach are now keen to introduce a basic winter service that would arrive at Armadale at 1025 and travel to Broadford and Armadale for people to be able to do shopping or hospital visits. Una Macleod asked why users could not attend these types of meetings with service providers. We will now wait for Stagecoach to provide us with the details, and this will include consideration of a different type of bus for the school runs. Roddy said that discussions will be organised with HC/SCC and SCT in respect of community transport using the subsidised taxi services. This is falling to SCT to bring this meeting. Kirsty said that SMO students can do shopping using the college minibus. Roddy assured everyone that much was being done to try and improve local services for the Sleat community.

**Roads/Planning/Tourism**

Rob said there have been very few planning applications in recent weeks other than two applications for the Rubha Phoil which is now owned by Ludwig Appletans. There is an open day on Sat 7th October between 1300-1600. Rob suggested that we revisit outstanding roads issues with Donnie Macleod on his return from leave on 9th October. Roddy added that Councillor Macdonald is doing a paper on Skye tourism.

**CalMac**

Rob said that there have been many cancellations on the Mallaig-Armadale route, all weather related and number is now nearing 200 for the season. Work will be carried out on the Loch Fyne this winter including new engines and cabin enhancements. Rob confirmed that Transport Scotland have said that MV Coruisk will return in 2019 subject to the on-time completion of the new 102m vessels being built in Glasgow.

**West Highlands and Islands Local Development Plan**

The consultation on the Plan closed on 21st July and Rob updated on the Sleat items that are in the Plan. All other items in the Sleat area have been lodged but the site ESO1 has received most comments on the Plan’s website. It is still unknown as to whether FEI will withdraw from their aspirations for up to 13 house plots in this 3.4-hectare site. This would be chased up with the landowner. Kevin Donnolly raised the issue of lighting at the distillery which was highlighted in the local plan as it is still a construction site. Kevin also asserted that he hoped common sense would prevail in respect of the ESO1 site. Roddy felt that all agreed that the use of that land for housing is still inappropriate, and Rob reminded that housing development at Exhibition Cottage was still in the system. Val Piddock raised the item of the public supply and Rob suggested that we invite SW’s Asset Management team back to Sleat to update.

**Sleat War Memorial**

Rob said that at the last meeting he preferred not to update on the project until all members of the Focus Group had been updated which was done on 5th September. Since then the Highland Council and War Memorials Trust had are ‘refusing’ to fund a relocation of the memorial to the roadside and that only funding for a refurbishment would be agreed. Rob has since written to the tenant of the croft advising this information and that HC/WMT would prefer to see another public meeting held although the community would still have pay for this and estimates could be as much as £30k. Quotes from two companies to refurbish as is have been secured. The matter will be pursued but a decision needs to be made as soon as possible.

**AOCB**

Veana Cleland asked about the post box at Kilmore being difficult to access. Rob will try and look further into this.

SCT have the AGM on 26Th October at Seomar Cruinneachaidh

Rob had received council information about a consultation on disability access for polling stations.

Kevin Donnolly asked to raise the issue of lighting at the new Torabhaig Distillery which he has raised with the local management. Kevin gave his view of the concerns about light pollution in Sleat having lived in the area for many years. Because of raising the issues Kevin has now written an extensive letter to Hamish Fraser which has been copied in to the SCC.

The meeting closed at 0845 with the next meeting to be held on 7th November at Ardvasar Hall.