COMHAIRLE CHOIMHEARSNACHD SHLEITE

SLEAT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Sleat Community Council held at Tarskavaig Hall

Tuesday 2nd October 2018

Present: Roddy Murray

Rob Ware

Tim Shone

Flora Maclean

John Duncan MacInnes

Apologies: Veana Cleland, Kirsty McGonagall

In Attendance:

Jan MacDonald, Calum Macleod

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting 4 Sep 2018**

The minutes of the meeting of were moved by Tim Shone and Flora Maclean

**Matters Arising:**

Roddy Murray gave a brief update on the meetings of the NHS Steering Group which have been held in Portree and had expressed concern that the south of Skye had been excluded. The NHS team had suggested video conferencing and David Noble has resigned from leading the steering group. It is also known that NHSSOS had invited the Cabinet Secretary would visit north Skye in 2019. Councillor Macleod said he is concerned about how the redesign can be delivered. Roddy also expressed the concern about older people having to be homed off island such as Aultbea and Gairloch.

**Agenda**

**Sleat War Memorial**

Rob updated on the completion of the works but there are still outstanding items that are yet to be resolved these including fencing, the vegetation and path works. As of today, there is no further information as to the status of discussions between the relevant parties but it is hoped that a resolution will be found by Armistice Day in November.

**Community Council Scheme of Establishment**

Roddy Murray updated on the Scheme which was initiated by the formation of the Commission for Highland Democracy two years ago and which has since published its report. Roddy outlined the part of the report relating to community councils and read extracts from this paper. Arising from this is a page of 42 questions and Roddy expressed disappointment at the views shown in this report and read out some examples of the narrative. Roddy challenged some of these and all in attendance tonight were shocked at the biased and assumptive statements. This is the link to the report:

<https://highlanddemocracy.files.wordpress.com/2017/12/commission-on-highland-democracy-final-report-dec-17.pdf>

Councillor Macleod fully agreed with Roddy’s views and that there had been no consultation with this community council. This was also shown as a concern when planning issues are taken to committees etc. Rob and Roddy had advised they had attended a meeting in Kyleakin to discuss the consultation. It is the view of the SCC that we would not want to merge with any other group in an enlarged CC. Roddy recalled all the campaigns and issues that we have dealt with in recent years with the grant now being £400 per annum. Roddy said that it was especially disappointing that the Commission did not recognise all the costs/time etc that Councillors put in as volunteers and this was an insult to the first tier of local democracy. Roddy also spoke of the Highland Council’s Twitterthon…say no more on such rubbish.

**CalMac Update**

Rob gave his regular and depressing update over the state of the ferry service on the Mallaig-Armadale route. In September alone there have been over 115 cancellations caused by weather and vessel re-deployments and at this rate there will be nearly 400 cancellations on the route this summer in addition to the 276 pre-cancelled due to the tides. The delays to the vessels in Glasgow mean that there will be no changes for 2019 and 2020 on the Mallaig route. Rob outlined what had been found out by FOI for the two loans to FMEL of £45m and he described it as a national disgrace. The winter timetable commences on 22 October with the regular two rotations per day through the winter, apart from the first two weeks of the winter and the last two weeks when there are three rotations. Rob outlined the role of the CalMac Communities Board for the benefit of Calum Macleod. Tim also voiced his views about the flawed decision to award the contract of the two vessels to Fergusons and said that his own view was that there is no way this shipyard should ever get another contract to build publicly funded vessels. Rob will send the winter and summer (and long term) aspirations for the route to Willie MacKinnon for distribution to local members. There was another general discussion amongst the Councillors and those present on the ferry service in general. Rob has also sent the pier area issues to Highland Council which MUST be addressed for next summer.

**Roads/Tourism and Planning**

Rob spoke of the tourism issues that have affected Sleat this year.

There are no planning issues to report.

Roads, there are ongoing issues and areas in Sleat are struggling with potholes. Calum Macleod said that HC are reviewing this process. Rob updated on the delay to the road works being completed outside the Ardvasar Hotel and at this time no permit for the works has been asked for by the Council. No further news is available. Jan Macdonald raised the issue of the closure of public toilets and that the Cab Sec for Tourism had raised that the RTIF could also be used to improve toilets.

**SCC Meetings/AOCB**

Flora Maclean raised the issue of SCC meetings and the cost of those. The primary school was suggested. John Duncan MacInnes suggested that one location could be used to replace all four that we use. Flora will investigate options. Calum Macleod said that half the grant each year goes on venues to be inclusive in our community by having different venues. Ongoing issue.

Tim Shone asked about what was known about the kelp dredging application by Marine Biopolymers. Rob updated with what he knew and would further update at the next meeting.

Roddy, JD and Eileen Armstrong will attenda meeting re local transport with the new HC officer responsible. This related to feeder travel from the townships and that group will visit Minginish Hall Association to see what they do.

Rob updated on what was known about the Broadford Coop closure which is due on 29th October (fuel only-shop in January 2019).

Rob advised there is a new consultation about polling stations etc. We have no comment on any change.

Next meeting 6TH November Ardvasar Hall at 1930