COMHAIRLE CHOIMHEARSNACHD SHLEITE

SLEAT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Sleat Community Council held at Ardvasar hall

Tuesday 7th May 2019

Present:

Rob Ware

Tim Shone

Flora Maclean

Veana Cleland

Roddy Murray

John Duncan MacInnes

Apologies: Kirsty McGonagall

In Attendance: Armelle Sandeman, Roger Cottis, Jan Macdonald, David Ashford, Ruth Swann, William Swann, Una Macleod, Donnie Mackinnon and Councillor John Finlayson

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting 2nd April 2019**

Roddy Murray welcomed members of the pubic to the meeting and especially to Councillor Finlayson.

The minutes of the meeting of were moved by.

**Matters Arising:**

Tim advised that over £1,000 had been raised for the EM school visit following the café and £500.00 has been donated to SCT. James Milne has also very kindly given a donation.

**Agenda**

**Brae Ord Forest**

Works have now started on felling and harvesting timber from the Ord Forest. This is an extended project which will see 700 acres felled and extracted. Operatives caravan accommodation is now in place and we understand that a haulage accord is in place between Scottish Woodlands as the agents and the Highland Council. All timber will be removed from the forest entrance at the beginning of the Ord loop road and the area is now ‘off-limits’ to members of the public. Rob Ware has written to the HC Access Officer to advise of the closure of the forest which could be more 12 months. Rob will write to the SW contact to ascertain any issues so far. Roddy asked if a representative could come and address a CC meeting. Roger Cottis has been consulted on the biodiversity issues and Rob will get in touch with SW.

**Potential Resumption of Skye Air Services (trial)**

Rob Ware gave a brief update on the recent milestones in the proposal to potentially introduce a trial air service between Skye and Glasgow which is a project of the Short Life Working Group of Highland Council/HITRANS and HIE. At a meeting on 4th March Skye elected members voted to recommend a further £170,000 of funds for the project study and this would be debated on 16th May at the HC Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee. The meeting on 16th May is asked to approve the funding and request the Chair of the Committee, Councillor Allan Henderson to write to Scottish Ministers for their support for the proposal. Councillor Finlayson confirmed that the £170K required to progress the study would come from the funds ring-fenced from the storage of turbines at Ashaig aerodrome. Rob advised that he was aware that a number of members of the EDI committee had been petitioned by some individuals and organisations calling for a refusal of funding. He reminded the meeting that the proposal had been discussed at the April meeting of the SCC but at this time, until such time as further information had been made available, the Council were not in a position to take a view on the proposal either in favour or otherwise. Rob added that it is likely to be a period of two years before any service was commenced from the time of approval, if that was the case, and it could be a trial of up to five years. This was due to the payback period of the procurement of facilities and services. Councillor Finlayson confirmed that the runway would not be required to be extended and the existing footprint of HC land would be sufficient for the development of a trial service. Jan Macdonald added that the importance of the project, whether in favour or not, should, in her view, come away from Facebook and be debated in communities as views on social media sites do not always represent the majority of people, and that the Community Council should have a strong role to play in this. Roddy Murray felt that this CC retained its stance from previous meetings but this may change when the results of the meeting to held on 16th May were known. The item will be kept under review. Armelle Sandeman said that she was not aware of these proposals until July of 2018. Roddy said that the concept of resuming air services went back to 2012 and two public meetings were held in 2013. There have been a number of public announcements re the proposal the latest was a joint communique from the working group on 14th September. Roddy said that if people were not aware of these proposals then they are now. At the appropriate time this Community Council will make any judgement based on the views of this community and the Community Council itself. Roger Cottis reminded that if approved a full planning application and enquiry will be initiated but this may be some time away. John Finlayson gave a brief update on the recent felling of trees at Ashaig aerodrome. John MacInnes reminded that this is a working airfield.

**Planning and Roads**

Flora Maclean raised the issue of a planning application by a family in Tarskavaig that have been asked to pay £500 or thereabouts. This is regarding developer contributions and Rob advised that a recent application at Capisdale required a payment to the Council for the school. This is in line with legislation introduced in 2018. The people had received an email from HC and John Finlayson agreed that he would look into this if the couple got in touch with him. Rob reminded that all Sleat planning applications are on a specific page on the SCC website. John added that developer contributions are part of the national planning framework which generally in the past has been for road improvements. Rob advised that the provision of pods for staff accommodation at the Ardvasar has been approved with conditions, the site at Duisdale for pods is still to be approved and there is no further word on the flats proposed at Pier Road Armadale. Roddy raised concerns at the condition of a planning site at Gillean Bay.

Roddy Murray expressed concern at the continuation of excessive speeding. We will contact PS re the issue. John Finlayson added that Skye is now four officers down on its complement of staff and pressures this summer will be high. Members have asked the senior officer for the Highlands to update the Ward Forum on this. John added that the white lining is being addressed this summer. Rob added that SkyeConnect had produced a single-track road leaflet for Skye and on the reverse the ‘rules’ of single-track road use. Kate Forbes is working hard on the ‘Keep Left’ campaign.

**Meeting with Paul Wheelhouse MSP, SG Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands**

A meeting took place on 3rd May where representatives from Sleat, Mallaig and Lochaber, together with three Elected Members to discuss the Mallaig-Armadale ferry service. He was accompanied by Kate Forbes MSP. There was no news to report other than the additional services agreed for the Mallaig route for next March recently approved by Transport Scotland. The STF will submit its summer 2020 by 10th June. Rob updated on the position of Ferguson Marine building the two new vessels. Roddy Murray confirmed that we will keep the focus on this route.

**Islands Plan Consultation**

The Scottish Government have recently launched a consultation on the National Islands Plan following from the Islands Act 2018. There will be a public meeting at SMO on 15th May and all residents are invited to attend. SCC will be represented.

**Sleat Primary School**

Tim had earlier mentioned about the funding required for the EM school visit. The SCC had considered a donation but this was now not required. John Finlayson updated on the Scot Gov proposals for early learning and the implications for the increase in hours. This has led to requirements for additional facilities and a number of proposals have been discussed at meetings recently and it was hoped that an agreement may be reached this week. There has been disagreement in views and a tension between the GM and EM respective parties. Fas Mor is also involved who believed that that group could provide a contribution but this has not been possible due to resources.

John Finlayson left the meeting.

**SCC Budget**

Rob asked Flora Maclean how much was left in the current account prior to the 19/20 grant. This is around £600.00.

**SCC AGM**

This will be held at Seomar Cruinneachaidh on 25th June at 1930.

**AOCB**

A new Scottish Government Communities Fund ‘Investing in Communities Fund’ has been announced and CalMac’s own Community Fund for Skye and Raasay area is open to applications from 1st May.

There has been no progress on the War Memorial works relating to access and security issues at the site. Rob felt that this is half-a-job done with the holly tree, for example, still obscuring the visibility of the memorial. The access issues remain as cattle continue to roam on this croft, potentially a safety issue.

Accounts for the DMG are now ready to be audited at the accountants.

JD MacInnes asked if a bin could be provided at the car park area before the wall at Mill Bridge. Rob will write to HC Waste team.

**Public Discussion**

Donnie Mackinnon mentioned that Raasay is still without its dedicated vessel, the ‘Hallaig’ since the start of summer because of problems in dry-dock of the ‘Lochinvar’. It is expected back mid-May.

The AGM will be held 25th June at 1930