COMHAIRLE CHOIMHEARSNACHD SHLEITE

SLEAT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Sleat Community Council held at Ardvasar Hall

Tuesday 4th February 2020

Present:

Rob Ware

Tim Shone

Flora Maclean

Veana Cleland

Ludwig Appeltans

In Attendance: Paddy Mclay, Lisa Pook, Kate Duffus, John Weir, George Scott, Kevin Donnelly, Councillor John Finlayson

Members offered their best wishes to Una Macleod following her recent accident

**Agenda**

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting 7th January 2020**

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

**Matters Arising:**

Ludwig Appeltans asked that it be confirmed that minutes that Rob Ware had NOT yet seen the full Mallaig-Armadale STAG report.

Rob clarified that he had not included the presentation from LSHA in the January minutes as this had not yet been published on the Highland Council planning application for the Armadale site.

**Associate Members**

Tim Shone outlined the options of co-opting Associate Members to the SCC. There are five councillors and options for three AMs. Rob also added that there were opportunities for young people for periods of up to two years. There have been no takers as at present. If people have particular skills, then these can be used as associate members. Kate Duffus expressed concern at the lack of under 40s attending meetings. Lisa Pook nominated herself and this was unanimously agreed by the five councillors. The members thanked Lisa and looked forward to her contribution.

**Roads and Tourism**

Rob reminded that the loop closure would be from 10-14th Feb and it is now clarified that the times will be 0900-1700. It is believed there is a fibre optic line being installed from Ostaig to the new mast in Tarskavaig, but it is unlikely to be extended to Tokavaig and Ord.

There are two surfacing projects in Drumfearn and Achnacloich due by end of March. John Finlayson said that the roads budget for Highland will be £6m this coming year. The budget process includes increasing council tax to prioritise road works and parking charges are being assessed at present. There is unlikely to be any increase in grant from Scottish Ministers. There is no plant for road works including potholes and this equipment has to be hired in commercially. Kevin Donnelly reminded of the poor state of white-lining and John Finlayson updated on recent difficulties in carrying out this. The Keep Left campaign for junctions is supported by Transport Scotland. John Weir asked if TVL could be used for roads works and John Finlayson concurred that is likely to be the case if the levy was eventually introduced. Rob gave a brief update on the process of TVL so far.

**Planning Applications**

Rob confirmed that a PIP has now been submitted to Highland Council for 16 affordable units at the former allotment site at Armadale. Residents are invited to submit any views on the proposal which, at present, remains an application in principle. Rob had leafletted all the houses in Allt a’Tuath but there were no attendees from there at the January meeting. Vehicle access when the site is complete will be via Allt a’Tuath. Four PIPs have been submitted for houses at the former Kinloch football pitch.

Applications for Expressions of Interest for 8 motorhome service points for SMO and 6 from An Crubh have been submitted to the Highland Council for the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund. John Finlayson said that the RTIF came about because of the need to address issues in Skye.

Kevin Donnelly will be writing to the HC giving his views on lighting designs for the Armadale Housing site.

**Ferry Services**

Rob reminded that the additional ferry services on the Mallaig-Armadale route commence on 2nd March operated by MV Loch Bhrusda. There are more than 160 extra crossings and as a pilot scheme it will be use it or lose it. This project has been the outcome of much discussion with public agencies and is designed to kick off the tourist season. Rob also updated on the vessels being built in Glasgow and the summer timetable for the Mallaig service this year. Paddy Mackay thanked all those who had made the March project happen.

Tim reiterated the importance of the trial and to spread the word of the new services.

Rob had asked CalMac to ensure they issue social media posts and mailshots to promote the service.

The final comments from user areas for the Mallaig-Armadale STAG have been submitted to CMAL and these will now be incorporated into the main document which is being produced by consultants from Mott Macdonald. There is no date for publication, but it is hoped to be by end of April. There has been no further word on the remaining issues for the short-term work at the Pier, but it is known that the speed limit Traffic Order will be issued imminently.

**Environment and Beach/Shore Cleans**

Rob summarised recent discussions about beach cleans and noted that he found 150m of fish farm feed pipe at Knock Bay. This was removed the following day by MOWI staff but highlighted how much debris is now on our shores. Kate Duffus had mentioned about a beach on FEI land along from Knock Bay that has massive fishing/fish farm debris. There was a brief discussion about what efforts can be made to help clear Sleat’s beach/shore hotspots.

**Ward Forum Update**

Veana updated on her visit to the Ward Forum which consisted of the civic awards and the Skye Flag competition. There were 369 designs sent in and there will be a final six selected with the winner announced by the end of March. There was also the Police Report which concentrated on drink/drug driving. Officers have drug testing kits in vehicles, but the trend of incidents is increasing. There was also a presentation about environment issues led by Dorothy Jackson. Rob said that he thought it good that Ward Forums still exist, and we should try to ensure members go as often as they can.

**Community Council/Sleat Community Trust**

Rob reported that on Thursday 6th Feb there will be the Trust’s information evening. The Armadale development will be discussed as well as the community transport and SMO’s MOVE project for electric vehicle use. SCC will nominate someone to sit on the SCT board co-opted.

**Deer Control Group**

Tim reported the group is on good financial grounds and next year member’s subscriptions will reduce. DM plans are designed for big estates and not places like Sleat. The DCG is a Scottish Government initiative managed through SNH. FEI left the group as the estate did not believe the survey carried out by helicopter and it is believed that deer numbers remain constant with the exception of FEI land. There has been an issue at the Kilbeg cemetery, and it is proposed that replacement fencing is required in places. John Finlayson will contact Council officials to resolve.

**AOCB**

Tim passed around posters about the Feis na Linne initiative based in Sleat for children. The group were due to come tonight but couldn’t make it. The new festival will be around eight times per year, most months where possible.

Flora updated on the mast in Tarskavaig which cannot be activated until the fibre is connected.

**Public Discussion**

None

The next meeting will be 3rd March 2020 at Tarskavaig Hall at 1930.