**COMHAIRLE CHOIMHEARSNACHD SHLEITE**

**SLEAT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of a Meeting of Sleat Community Council held at Sleat Free Church Hall 7th February 2023

Present:

Rob Ware

Tim Shone

Veana Cleland

Flora Maclean

Kate Duffus

Gordon Matheson

Andy Williamson

Apologies: Duncan MacInnes

**In Attendance:**

Kathryn Rawlinson, Roddy Murray, David McLeish, Paul Maharg, Anita Myatt

**Welcome/Declaration of Interests/Recording of the Meeting**

The chair Tim Shone welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the members of the community council. He added that the meeting will be recorded for the purpose of minute taking and will be destroyed afterwards.

There were no declarations of interest, but Gordon Matheson reminded that he is an employee of Sleat Community Trust.

**Item 1 Minutes arising from the January Meeting**

Tim reminded that the first part of the January meeting had been ‘difficult’ due to a particular item, but the second part was a good example of a community council meeting held in public. The issue is now resolved. Tim proposed adoption of the minutes as an accurate record of this meeting which was seconded by Fora Maclean. For the public attending tonight’s meeting Rob Ware gave a short update on the visit by Sgt Neil Graham of Police Scotland who gave a presentation at the January meeting.

**Item 2 Skye and Raasay Area Committee 30th January**

Rob gave an update on the Committee meeting in January which is held quarterly and includes the four elected members. There are regular reports from Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services as well as from council officials and invited speakers. There was a progress report from HC’s Head of Infrastructure on the closure of Uig harbour for redevelopment which will reopen on 14th March. All seems to be on track and there will be a second closure in Autumn 2023. There was also a report of grants for Skye and Raasay of the Regeneration Fund where more than £440k has been given to 16 organisations in the area including Sleat Community Trust which has been awarded £11k for facilities at the Tormore Woodshed.

The Council’s Roads Manager for Skye and Lochalsh, Gordon MacDonald, presented his report to members the principal theme was the severe weather impacting highways in the area and the financial resources required to address some of the major problems of local roads. Three north-end schemes are underway, and it is now expected that the rapidly deteriorating Sleat road at Kinloch Farm will not now be done until April onwards. Mr Macdonald updated on the capital plan for 23/24 and the projects that are committed to be done from April onwards.

There was a short discussion on the call among members on the perception that funding in Highland Council, particularly the City Region Deal, stays in the Highland capital and doesn’t reach Skye and Raasay.

You can watch the Skye and Raasay Committee meeting here.

[*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4i76soRNFY&t=4017s*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4i76soRNFY&t=4017s)

**Item 3 Roads and Planning**

Roads were covered in Item 2

An Crubh have now applied for planning permission for a chemical waste disposal tank and a project to erect two flagpoles.

There have just been two domestic dwelling applications this month but there has been no progress on the unauthorised development at Upper Teangue. This will be reviewed by the resident group on 28th February.

Andy Williamson raised concerns that planning conditions require drives to be tarmacked but all along the Sleat road where there are no drainage culverts allowing run-off water to run across the road. Rob will clarify current policy.

**Item 4 Community Resilience**

Gordon Matheson and Andy Williamson are leading on this and there is agreement between parties to create a community resilience or forum. This will be a joint arrangement with Sleat Community Trust and relevant stakeholders. A short discussion took place on how this could work well in Sleat.

**Item 5 Local Place Plans-Development Plans**

Rob introduced a new scheme that has been launched by the Scottish Government and in our case the Highland Council that will allow communities to set their own aspirations for their area to feed into the next Development Plan. Known as a Local Place Plan it is a web-based portal for communities to help shape their specific requirements in terms of such items as amenity space, housing, sports, and social facilities, protecting environments to name but a few. You can read Highland Council’s pre-amble on this item here.

<https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/178/development_plans/1043/local_place_plans>

Gordon Matheson is already working with SCT on the potential for future and the Council must listen to suggestions, one such example is the growth in numbers of primary school pupils that would require play areas. Robust community engagement is key here. Gordon updated on the principal issues of a plan and what local initiatives can be added to a LPP. At a minimum there has to real proof of community consultation and have LPPs in by January 2024, SCT will be looking at 5-10 years programme of development, but it will need funding for paid employees. SCT wants to expand Visit Sleat including a greater Gaelic input. Roddy Murray suggested that HC should be required to provide resources as this money is not available to the Trust. Andy Williamson added that he thought that a community consultation must be by meeting people and not in the form of a local questionnaire. Concerns were expressed that a wonderful children’s play area at Armadale Castle is closed for five months of the year, denying kids to have safe place to play.

It was agreed that SCC will support SCT in going forward with a SLEAT LPP.

**Item 6 Ferries and Transport**

Rob updated on the continuing construction of the two vessels in Port Glasgow. It is believed that the first of the two could be ready in May of this year and the second 802 early in 2024. He attended a webinar recently led by CMAL on the Small Vessel Replacement Plan which will include the MV Loch Fyne currently deployed to the Mallaig-Armadale route. Works will start in early March on the new traffic management scheme at Armadale Pier and it is now expected the Sleat Road ferry information sign will be operational by Easter. CalMac’s new reservations and ticketing system is due to go live in April, all staff across most of the company are now being trained. Rob spoke about the Transport Scotland commissioned ‘Project Neptune’ that looks at 11 options for the future of ferry services. There will be a public drop-in session on 17th Feb at the Sleat Free Church Hall led by Angus Campbell on behalf of the transport minister. Those who care about ferries in our communities are invited to attend these sessions.

**Item 7 SCC Database**

Rob mentioned again that it would be desirable to have an SCC database which we don’t have at present. The Community Trust already have a members list, and SCC has a new website still at [www.sleatcommunitytrust.org.uk](http://www.sleatcommunitytrust.org.uk) and so this item will be revisited.

**AOCB and Public Discussion**

Sleat Lunch Club will now be administered by Sleat Community Trust and four dates have now been arranged for February and March. The community trust has the use of the minibus to take people to the events. Funding is available to pay drivers.

Anita Myatt reminded that the STL Licence scheme has been delayed, in committee, by a period of six months to 30th Sep 2023 but this is still be approved by the Scottish Parliament (approved on 1st March). Rob reminded about the new rateable values that will be effective from 1st April 2023. Any appeals against the decision can be made at [www.saa.gov.uk](http://www.saa.gov.uk). There was a short discussion on the pros and cons of a potential tourism tax for Scotland.

Paul Maharg was keen to support the Local Place Plan group when it is formed. This was welcomed by the SCC and Gordon Matheson will take that forward.

Rob expressed concerns that regularly so few people from Sleat actually attend our meetings. This will be followed up.

The chair thanked everybody attending with the next meeting to be held at Tarskavaig Hall on Tuesday 7th March at 1930.