**COMHAIRLE CHOIMHEARSNACHD SHLEITE**

**SLEAT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of a Meeting of Sleat Community Council held at Sleat Free Church Hall 2nd May 2023

Present:

Rob Ware

Tim Shone

Veana Cleland

Flora Maclean

Kate Duffus

Andy Williamson

Gordon Matheson

Apologies: Paddy Mackay

**In Attendance:** Armelle Sandeman, Jeannette McClure, Kevin Donnolly, John Weir, Donnie Nicolson, Duncan MacInnes, Hugh Angay

Apologies: Ruraidh Stewart, Paddy Mackay

**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.

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

There were no items arising not covered in tonight’s agenda. It was decided to delay discussion on HPMAs until Gordon Matheson joined later.

**Item 2 Roads and Planning**

Rob updated on the recent meetings in HC discussing additional funding for roads and in Sleat the Kinloch Farm area and approach to Armadale Pier are those most in need of attention. The Kinloch stretch has been allocated £77k for the 800m length. £1.8m has been found for Highland region. We have no dates when the work in Sleat will take place and extending the pavement in front of the Nigel Grounds gallery at Armadale. Rob added there are only 16 roads staff and two apprentices to cover all of the island, a sharp contrast to BEAR Scotland who maintain the trunk roads. Jeanette McClure reminded of the single track beyond Tormore that does need Armco barrier, this has been asked for before. There has been some confusion about the signage for the new 40MPH extended zone near SMO. The footway from Ferrindonald down to Mill Bridge is in a poor condition with mud build up, excess chips and overhanging vegetation.

There have been seven planning applications submitted in Sleat in April, these are all shown on the SCC website. Rob summarised those for the meeting. The An Crubh motorhome site with five berths. is now operational.

**Item 3 Public Transport**

Stagecoach summer timetable begins 22nd May and CalMac will have a full summer service from 16th May when Coruisk redeploys from Mull. There have been no real capacity issues but there has been some effect on local business income. CalMac still hope to deploy MV Alfred to the Arran service for the summer timetable. The Armadale car park is now complete, there will be a review of what has gone well and not so well and a second phase in September. To maximise space there is a possibility of removing the bottle banks from the pier and some options have been looked at including at CDLT which was rejected. Ongoing discussions are taking place and a lot will depend on whether the DRS initiative goes ahead, which looks doubtful at this point. The layby close to Mill Bridge was considered but was not favoured by those attending the meeting. Investigations are ongoing over the ownership of the area opposite the Skyelark shop which is believed to be owned by Highland Council. We would like to ensure this land comes into use permanently for parking.

The Community Council is still endeavouring to establish the status of the waste system at Armadale Castle and Gardens which has been deferred for two years.

**Item 4 HPMA (Highly Protected Marine Areas)**

There was an extensive discussion on this topic led by Gordon Matheson who outlined the proposals from the Scottish Government whose initial public ‘consultation’ has just closed. In his view this has been a botched process to benefit the SNP/Green alliance. The legislation has been badly constructed and if this very controversial initiative is approved it would not be until 2026. Gordon added that community councils do have a role to play in lobbying government on HPMAs which could be individually or collaboratively with other local community councils and organisations. The SCC notes that we are concerned at the process and legislation of HPMAs and this will be continued.

**Item 5 Succession Planning Sleat Community Council**

This item was deferred to the AGM in June.

**Item 6 Local Place Plans/Development Plans**

This item was deferred to the AGM in June.

**AOCB**

Tim Shone told the meeting that this is Veana Cleland’s last meeting as a community council after many years of service. She and her husband Bill are relocating to Stirling to be closer to their family and Tim expressed his sincere appreciation for the contribution she has made for the community of Sleat. She was presented with a card signed by colleagues and a gift voucher for a garden centre close to where they will be living when the construction of their new home is complete. There was a sincere round of applause when Veana said a few words thanking the community for having many happy years living in Skye.

**Public Discussion**

None, The meeting closed at 2120, next meeting and AGM at Ardvasar Hall, at 1930 on Thursday 22nd June

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