# **COMHAIRLE CHOIMHEARSNACHD SHLEITE**

# **SLEAT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

# Minutes of the Meeting held in Tarskavaig Hall

# 7 pm on Tuesday 4 March 2025

## Members Present

**Janet MacDonald (Janet M) Andy Wiliamson (Andy W)**

**Rob Ware (Rob W) Tim Shone (Tim S)**

**Duncan MacInnes (Duncan M) Kate Duffus (Kate D)**

**Mairead Macdougall (Mairead M)**

**Apologies** - **Hans Petri (Hans P - Associate)** and representatives of Broadford and Strath, and Kyle and Kyleakin CC

**Public** - 4 members of the public attended.

## Welcome

The chair, **Andy W**, welcomed Councillors and residents to the meeting. He reminded everyone that proceedings would be recorded.

## Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest. Both Andy W and Duncan M stated they were also on the Board of Sleat Community Trust.

## Minutes and matters arising from the meeting on 21 January 2025

**Duncan M** summarised the minutes of the last meeting which will be available on line.

* Approval of the Minutes was proposed by **Kate D** and seconded by **Tim S** and accepted by all.

## Sign off the Local Place Plan

**Andy W** explained that the Local Place Plan for Sleat had been sent to all area Highland Councillors and neighbouring Community Councils. Cllr Finlayson and Broadford and Strath CC had responded positively. There was no response or comment from our allocated Highland Councillor. **Andy W** produce one printed copy which added to the professionalism of the document.

* It is now the time to **sign off the LPP and send a final copy to Highland Council Planning and to various stakeholders in Sleat.**
* Proposed by **Duncan M**, seconded **Janet M** and agreed by all.

**Andy W** reiterated that the LPP must not now sit on shelves but is an aspirational document for Sleat’s future.

The next move is to collate a list of achievable aspirations and take action, particularly in relation to the **Strategic** **Review** being undertaklen by **Sleat Community Trust**.

**Kate D** noted that collective comments within the LPP had already been effectively used in the support of the proposed turbine development at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

## Highland Local Development Plan

Although ‘Local’, this covers the whole of Highland Council and is very planning focused. It will seek comments on areas for development and also areas a community has suggested not to be developed. This is to a certain extent noted in the Sleat LPP, such as south of the Tarskavaig road end, and around Armadale Bay. HC is holding an online meeting on Thursday 13 March. There appears to be no deadline for the process.

## Highland Council Roads

There has been a flurry of badly executed pot-hole filling activity thorugh Ardvasar and some side roads. SCC has heard nothing back direct from HC in response to its letter of complaint on 22 Jan. Kate Forbes MSP managed to get a response out of HC following a strong letter of concern from residents in Kilmore.

The list of road improvement issued by HC included over £1m for Sleat of which £185,000 has been allocated so far.

Further examples of damage to the local infrastructure were noted, included a floor comment about danger to livestock moved in trailers. It is important that anyone who receives windscreen damage makes a request for compensation from HC.

* SCC will write again to HC pointing out the unprofessionality of the lack of response.

## Broadford and Breakish Renewables and Infrastructure proposals

**Rob W** brought us up to date on the various potential industrial infrastructure projects, workcamps and storage facilities around Broadford. There have been 285 objections to the one current planning application. **Rob W** and **Kate D** confirmed they wrote an objection, on behalf of SCC, to the planning application for the Torrin road workers camp. It was noted that none of these projects bring any direct benefit to Sleat but will impact on the role of the Broadford area for those living in Sleat. There was general discussion about the Central Belt control of how ‘community benefit’ is handled.

## Accounts

**Duncan M** presented a draft account of acitivity up to the end of the financial year on 31 March 2025. This was likely to leave balance of £286, cf £411 in 2024. It was noted that this included secretarial fees that were not incurred in the previous year.

**DM** noted that the cover letter form HC stated “This is an administrative grant, awarded to help cover the operating costs only of the Community Council eg meeting expenses, postage, stationary, insurance, travel, subsistence and the secretarisl honorarium.” By implication it means this funding should not be used for grants and donations into the community.

## An Slèiteach Newsletter

**Duncan M** produced copies of the most recent newsletter. He was pleased that this included information from Sleat Community Trust, Sleat Community Council and Camuscross & Duisdale Initiative so had become a truly Sleat Newsletter. He had, prior to the meeting, suggested it be printed, and the cost be covered jointly by SCT and SCC and by sales in local shops. However he withdrew that suggestion when it was found that printing by Strathprint would delay issue by another 7-10 days.

* It was agreed that a long term plan is needed about professional printing, timelines and advertising. **Duncan M** will work on that.

## Community News Update

**Rob W** gave an overview: The HC Area Meeting on 17 Feb; the recent Calmac litter pick at Armadale; the offer on one remaining low cost house at the Kilbeg development.

This prompted discussion about the difficulty in selling such low costs sites, including the remaining site at Capsidale. There is now no company offering sutiable mortgages in the UK, making such sites unsellable.

Planning applications included a shed conversion and house in Camuscross, the SMO turbine and air-source heat pump, an off-line composting toilet in Ardvasar, and a house in Duisdale.

The discussion on a Tourism Levy continues to gather little support with a closing date of 31 March for comment.

## Recruitment of new SC Councillors

There is currently one space and might soon be two on SCC. **Duncan M** suggested that any addition should come from the northern end of Sleat and that SCC should collectively sound out potential candidates. We were also reminded of our ability to recruit a young councillor.

## AOCB

**Andy W** gave a brief update on the Ardvasar Play area.

**Kate D** led a discussion on the growing need for Home Care support with the total lack of Care Homes, and the implications this has on blocked hospital beds. **Duncan M** suggested contact with **Mrs Davidson of Abraichan**, an ex-H Councillor who has successfully led the development of at home care support in her area. Some collation of local care needs would be a very useful start.

**Janet M** asked for information about potential costs of Village Notice Boards.

**Andy W** said that SCT had agreed to act as sponsor for **Ian Hall’s Bike Route** between Drumfearn and Broadford.

## Next Meeting

The next Meeting will be on **Tuesday 1 April 2025 at 7.30 pm in Ardvasar Hall**

**Andy W** closed the meeting at 8.45 pm