# **COMHAIRLE CHOIMHEARSNACHD SHLEITE**

# **SLEAT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

# Minutes of the Meeting held in An Crùbh

# 7 pm on Tuesday 21 January 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)**

**Hans Petri (Hans P - Associate)**

**Apologies** were given by **Mairead Macdougall (Mairead M)** and representatives of Broadford and Strath CC, and Kyle and Kyleakin CC

**Public** - 5 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. The meeting of 7 January was postponed to tonight because of poor weather.

**Hans P**, who resigned on 31 December 2024 as a Council Member, stated that he wished to continue to lead the liaison with our two nearest Community Councils until that was firmly in place. To that effect it was proposed that he continues as an **Associate Member**, with no say or vote in general matters, but reporting on Neighbouring Council liaison.

* Proposed by **Andy W** and Seconded by **Tim S**, agreed by **all.**

The Agenda, Minutes and LPP were projected on the wall as the meeting progressed.

## Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

## Minutes and matters arising from the meeting on 3 December 2023

**Duncan M** summarised the minutes of the last meeting which would be available online.

There were no matters arising.

* Approval of the Minutes was proposed by **Tim S** and seconded by **Rob W** and accepted by all.

## Update on Meetings with CDLT

**Mairead M** was not present. It was understood that there had been no meetings with CDLT. This item was set aside.

## Meeting with the Scottish Land Commission

**Andy W** reported on a good meeting with the **Hamish Trench, CEO and Emma Cooper of the Scottish Land Commission,** attended by all the Sleat Councillors, on Friday 13 December 2024 in the Board Room of SMO. The SLC updated us on the impending Land Reform Bill which has implications for large landowners. **Andy W** summarised for the SLC what our two Estate owners were good at and not good at. The Bill suggests that landowners must work with their communities but there is a mismatch with landowners having no right to interfere with Crofting management. Any proposed estate management plans should therefore be in co-operation with local Crofting interests.

**Janet M** noted it would be good for Crofters to have a voice in the Bill and it was hoped that this was done through the Crofting Agencies.

**Andy** noted that there is no mention of Local Place Plans in the Bill, so there is no requirement for estates to consider the aspirations of the community LPP. This need to be rectified in the Bill. The meeting was very useful for SCC to understand the work of the SLC, and it needs clarifying that SLC is not the author of the Bill but just one of several agencies providing feedback into Scottish Government legislation creation. There appears to be areas of concern in the Bill from other Scottish agencies.

**Rob W** had written to the SLC to thank them for their visit and information.

## Ratification of the Local Place Plan

Several hard copies were circulated and the LPP was projected on the wall.

**Andy W** explained that maps had now been included, with updates from recent public events. He had sent a draft copy to a personal contact in Holyrood who reported back they were impressed. The LPP contains issues already dealt with, or which need more discussion, but is a detailed aspirational document for Sleat.

**Duncan M** said that the Parish Online system used to create the maps was a facility that had great potential to map ongoing issues in Sleat in more detail.

**Andy W** noted the importance of the LPP for forward planning for **Sleat Community Trust**. The LPP will now be sent to our 4 Highland Councillors, with an expected response by 28 February.

**Rob W** noted that only 8 LPPs have been accepted so far by HC with another 33 in the pipeline.

The Sleat LPP will also be sent to the two adjacent Community Councils with responses by 21 February. This will lead to a the Final LPP being sent to HC by the deadline at the end of March.

* It was proposed that **SCC sign off the Draft LPP**, **Rob W**, seconded **Kate D** and agreed by all.

**Andy W** thanked those involved. The LPP must not now sit on shelves but be brought to life by the Sleat Community.

## Community News Update

**Rob W** gave an overview: A lack of winter buses; Sleat will lose the Coruisk to Mull for a period; 2 houses remain available in the Kilbeg development; there were no January planning applications; one of the proposed Kinloch houses was seen to be for holiday use only.

The proposed **Tourism Levy** has been widely condemned by Highland Chambers of Commerce and the Tourism Industry. However, it was noted that there is no easy way for a voice from communities whose infrastructure is suffering from tourism.

## Highland Council and road / pothole issues

**Rob W** has been posting photos of Sleat potholes on FB in addition to a locally made video. We need to make a concerted high-level approach to HC and Government about the generally appalling road surfaces in Sleat pointing out the loss of community amenity, the collective costs of damage to vehicles, and public safety issues. **Duncan M** suggested this ia the sort of use that the online Sleat map be put to in mapping the problems.

* It was agreed that information be gathered and sent to **Kate Forbes MSP**, **Highland Councillors**, the **Press** and **HC Roads Managers**, in letters signed by the SCC Chairman.

## Broadford and Breakish Renewables and Infrastructure proposals

**Kate D** and **Hans P** attended meetings in Broadford regarding Planning applications for two large workcamps in Broadford and Ashaig relating to the development of windfarms and power-line upgrades. **Kate D** outlined the enormity of what was proposed and the concerns of Broadford about the negative impact.

* It was agreed that **Kate D** and **Rob W** will work on a response from SCC supporting the concerns of our neighbouring CC and send it off immediately. Proposed by **Tim Shone** and Seconded by **Duncan M**.

## AOCB

**Janet M** suggested we contact HC about some end of year financial support for the necessary replacement of our Township notice Boards. This is an ongoing search for a solution.

**Andy W** noted that HC were asking for comments on an updated CC’s Scheme of Establishment. It would seem to just be tinkering with details but he encouraged individuals to make a response.

## Public Discussion

SCC was asked when hard copies of the LPP would be distributed. It was pointed out that this would be an expensive print run for which there was no budget. But it would be a pity not to publicise this good document more widely. **Duncan M** said he would print copies, to be placed in An Crùbh and Armadale Stores.

## Next Meeting

As this meeting had been postponed it was decided to miss the February meeting.

The next Meeting will be on **Tuesday 4 March 2025 at 7 pm in Tarskavaig Hall**

**Andy W** closed the meeting at 8.40 pm