

Staffin Community Council Business Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7th April 2016 at 7.30pm in Staffin Primary School

Present:

Lachie Gillies (Chair), Simon Gilkes, Jennifer Shanks, Isobel MacDonald

1. Apologies:

Ann Marie Ferguson, Barbara Whitehead.

2. To sign the Minutes of previous meeting:

Draft minutes having been circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman signed them as a correct record of the meeting of Thursday 10th March 2016.

3. Written Financial Report from Treasurer:

J. asked for return of Bank statement so she could complete annual return to Highland Council. She confirmed that secretary could submit invoice for stationery items purchased.

4. Staffin Community Trust matters:

Hugh Ross was unable to attend & sent his apologies.

5. Village speed limit update:

S. emailed Bruce Crawford to thank him for his efforts. He confirmed that a number of people had been stopped, one doing 55mph through the village.

6. Football pitch/Play park – a way forward?

S. reported back from attending the Trust meeting to explain our ideas about pitch & play park development, our need to be associated with an incorporated body to carry it out, setting up a Trust sub-group consisting of CC members & interested parties to do this. The Trust were happy to support this idea. S. also spoke with Martin Perry at the Community Hall Association & he felt they might well be able to get involved.

Chairperson & Treasurer felt that the Community Council shouldn't be tackling this themselves. They had identified the need but another interested group should action it.

7. Feedback from NHS SoS meeting in Portree – Isobel.

Well supported meeting in Portree. Petitions Committee of Scottish parliament upheld case but things on hold until after elections. NHS not helping consultation by holding meetings at difficult times & apparently carrying on with their plans regardless of people's opinions. Considering suitable protest action after elections.

8. Provision of dog waste facilities in Staffin.

Following I. raising her concerns at the number of loose dogs & significant amounts of dog excrement in the centre of Staffin, S. presented results of a few enquiries made of costs of poo bag dispensers & bags. About £125.00 plus bags at £30 per pack of 250 plus fitting. L. felt that it was not up to CC to provide facilities for dog owners who should be looking after their own dogs. J. suggested we might approach the Primary school to produce some posters for distribution in the centre to shame people in to clearing up after their dogs. S. to take this to the school.

9. Public toilet facilities in Staffin.

S. received a report from a member of the community who had observed people using the Slipway area as a toilet and asked the CC to follow it up. S. copied to all members & to Bruce Crawford for

his advice as he was reporting a criminal matter. Following this, Sgt Crawford agreed to patrol the area & put a piece on social media & to the WHFP who ran an article on the 7th April. They highlighted the like of signage for the toilets available at the Community Hall as well as the Highland Councils close of the toilet at Brogaig.

It was suggested S. write to the SCHA wondering if it might be possible to have their facilities available 7 days a week rather than the current 6 days. Opening hours of 9am to 8pm were considered fine.

Chairperson suggested as well as working with HC & SCHA on toilet signage we should take the opportunity to look at other signs in the Staffin area that required replacement. It was felt we could look at the HC Discretionary Fund to finance this. S. to liaise with Martin Perry & compile a list of appropriate signage.

10 Defibrillator matters.

There is a defibrillator stationed outside Columba 1400 and although, happily, it had never been used, there was concern about whether both its whereabouts & how to use it were adequately known by the community. Although initial training had been given to some it was a long while back & we might be in need of a refresher course. S. to contact Lucky2BHere for further information.

11. West Highland & Islands Development Plan.

CC in receipt of a copy of West Highland & Islands Development Plan. We were requested to look at the Staffin section & feedback to them our comments. The relevant section had been distributed prior to the meeting & was then discussed. Our response as follows:

Could we just reiterate a couple of factual errors in the sections please?

- SFM1: Stenscholl Common Grazings & SFM2: Slipway have been marked in the wrong places on the map. They have become transposed. SFM3 is correctly positioned, behind the Community Hall & Community Shop.
- The building you have labelled Community Centre is in fact Columba 1400, a private enterprise. The Community Centre is really as mentioned above in relation to SFM3.
- SFH3 is where you have marked SFH1 and vice versa. The two are transposed. SFH2 is correct.

Several councillors expressed a vested interest in that they lived very near some of the proposed sites so you are getting feedback from the remainder on particular sections.

SFH3: Opposite junction at Trotternish Avenue.

The site was turned down almost immediately by the Crofting Commission as being a rare piece of prime agricultural land &, as such, they would not make it available for development.

SFM1: Stenscholl common grazings.

The Staffin Trust are currently proposing this land for business unit & affordable housing. Scottish National Heritage have currently indicated that they would oppose the development on the grounds of interrupting view of the Trotternish ridge.

SFM2: Slipway.

Currently a proposal in for the development of a fish processing plant although nothing has been heard about it now for well over a year. It would appear remarkable if it or any other development were allowed to take place in the area as all access (unless from the sea) would have to be down what is currently a single track access road with a single track road crossing the river. The road is cut into the edge of the cliffs. Widening it, as well as being costly, would inevitably cut into areas where Neolithic finds have recently been discovered by University of Highlands & Islands team (further

work mooted) & the dinosaur footprint area. Extraordinary if SNH et al don't raise major objections. Major tourist destination.

Placemaking Priorities:

As mentioned with SFM2 above, bullet point one, indicating features to protect. Archaeological sites & sites such as the dinosaur footprints should be added.

12. Police Questionnaire.

CC had received a questionnaire from Police Scotland asking:-

- 1) What are the top three priorities for your community?
- 2) Why are these priorities important in your community?
- 3) How satisfied are you with the level of Police contact/input received by your Community Council?
- 4) Any other comments?

This was discussed & the following points were made:-

- 1)
 - i. Speeding through the village.
 - ii. Defecating by adults in the beach area in particular.
 - iii. Door to door scam traders.
- 2) Pretty self-explanatory but:-
 - i. Clearly a danger to residents, as well as noise, with high speed vehicles entering the village at least 60mph. Some inconsiderate parking habits of local residents increase the potential danger.
 - ii. Lack of signage to available facilities & lack of facilities at all hours have contributed to the local area being used as a toilet. Anti-social as well as a public health issue &, of course, an offence.
 - iii. We have a lot of elderly residents & they are particularly at risk from such traders.

3) If I can name names? Sgt Bruce Crawford & his team have been excellent in their support. We have recently contacted him on the first two points & he has responded swiftly. We have had speed monitoring patrols with offenders spoken to. I believe we have also had patrols down to the beach. He has made excellent use of social media to heighten public awareness. Much appreciated.

S. to return to Police.

13 AOB

Isobel raised the issue of provision of flowers in the centre of village & whether we could help financially. She would investigate.

Date of next meeting:

Scheduled date of Thursday 5th May.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm

..... Chair
Signed as a true record of the above meeting.

Dated: 5th May 2016