

**Assynt Community Council**  
**27<sup>th</sup> June 2019 – 19:30**  
**Community Room, Lochinver Village Hall**

**1) Present**

K Anderson (KA), R Kerr (RK), V Ling (VL), D Slator (DS), L Taylor (LT)

Others Present – Hugh Morrison – Councillor (HM), C Chapman - Minutes  
4 Members of the public

**2) Apologies**

No apologies to report.

**3) Expressions of Interest**

None.

**4) Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising**

VL proposed amendment to the minutes section 6) for the wording to be changed from Lochinver to Assynt. This was agreed. VL proposed the draft minutes to be approved and this was seconded by KA.

**5) Financial Report**

KA confirmed the balance in the Business Account as £139.67 and the Business Account Access Reserve as 8,887.03. VL enquired if there had been any applications for grants, DS confirmed that they had not received any although he believed that one may be forthcoming. It was agreed that the Application for Grants for local deserving causes to be re-advertised on Facebook and in the next edition of the Assynt News.

**6) Correspondence**

No correspondence received to report.

**7) Response to Planning Applications**

No Applications to consider.

**8) Report on Stoer School Closure Consultation**

VL (*attended*) reported on the meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> June attended by 3 Councillors and chaired by Norma Young. The meeting was to consider the Consultation on the Closure of Stoer School. No major objection to the closure arose but people attending the meeting who had attended the school spoke of the good education received there. It was also pointed out by more recent pupil of the school that the small size had a detrimental effect on education. It was recommended that the public make representation via post, emails or visiting the website. (although no major objections arose, clarity is required). Concerns were expressed at how the overall infrastructure of the village is pecked away if the school closes. If Stoer School is closed the building must be maintained or made good.

For anyone wishing to read the consultation please follow the link: -

**[https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/download/1736/school\\_consultation-\\_stoer\\_primary\\_school](https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/download/1736/school_consultation-_stoer_primary_school)**

HC are not obliged to provide transport to pre-school children. It was noted that this might cause problems for attendance at pre-school for children living in remoter areas.

## **9) Local Issues (Lochinver/Drumbeg)**

### **i) Toilet Closures Update**

No update at present

### **ii) Stoer Old Cemetery Wall**

RK confirmed the fencing has now been assembled to put a stop to the sheep entering Stoer Cemetery Wall.

### **iii) Dog Fouling**

LT confirmed that he has yet to obtain the paint.

### **iv) Drumbeg Swings**

LT clarified that there was not much enthusiasm for the Drumbeg Swings and expressed difficulty getting local people on board to assist. It has been established that HC would require their contractors to install any new equipment.

### **v) Bus Timetables**

DS has not heard anything further and will continue to chase the matter up with David Summers.

### **vi) Presentation of Representatives of the West Sutherland Deer Management**

VL had met with Elaine Macaskill, who has been working on the deer fencing project. She agreed that it would be possible to fence off the village around the trees. Funding would have to be obtained to pay for the fencing and agreement from Landowners to maintain the trees for 20 Years. For such a project to be undertaken we would need to work together, and a public meeting required. She is currently talking to Stalkers, although this does not deal immediately with the long-term sustainable solution.

**vii) Action:** VL to continue with discussions with Elaine Macaskill

### **viii) Presentation by Matt Bridgestock on behalf of John Gilberts Architects**

Following the Survey recently conducted by ADT and commissioned by the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust, who identified a need for as many as 70 extra houses in the Assynt Area and whose report was highlighted in the minutes of the ACC Meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019. A member of the public (AD) at the CC meeting raised the issue of the number of extra houses the survey indicated Assynt needed. He wondered if the CC was also surprised at this number. After discussion by the CC it was agreed that the CC was surprised at the size of this number. DS explained that if any members of the public had any concerns, then they should read the report, following the link

**<https://assyntcommunity.files.wordpress.com/2019/05/assynt-survey-report-2019-final.pdf>**

- ix) Hugh Morrison confirmed that the Community Council should be able to procure some road signage. RK suggested a length restriction on vehicles between Clachtoll Campsite and Drumbeg, the business representatives felt this would curtail deliveries for people living along the B879. Hugh Morrison confirmed that extra road signs can be extended, the 30 MPH road sign to be repositioned further out of Drumbeg, adjacent to the Village sign, but the road humps were not feasible option.
- x) Clashnessie Boardwalk – RK confirmed that the timber had been delivered. SSE would only provide 3 men for 1 day to help with the repairs. RK confirmed that he was happy to complete this.

### 10) Electric Vehicle Charging Points

LT reported that the Charging points were still not operational, and Robin Pope had been emailed requesting an update.

It was agreed that HM would continue with the drive to have the Charging points connected.

### 11) Community Service

The crack in the pavement by Culag Bridge on route to Lochinver School should be filled in following the structural engineer confirming that the deterioration would not present a safety issue.

LT Confirmed that the Cleaning Operative vacancy has now been closed and was currently being shortlisted for interviews.

### 12) AOCB

It has been reported that there are large potholes at Ardvreck Castle car park. Also stones are being moved so cars are able to drive up on the verges and causing damage. The CC was not clear if the car park was HC property. HM confirmed that the carpark was not fit for purpose and proposed that the car park would benefit from an entrance and an exit. It was also discussed the need for signs to be erected indicating drivers to keep to the left-hand side of the road.

HC confirmed that the relining programme could also include marking lines for 2 boxes in the School car park, for the school minibus, as well as outside the Caberfeidh and the Health Centre. HM also confirmed that to change the traffic sign from 40 MPH to 30 MPH at the start of the School entrance would require an application for a traffic order which would take some considerable amount of time.

The meeting closed at 20:15.

The next meeting will take place on the Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at Lochinver Village Hall.

August 29<sup>th</sup> – Lochinver Village Hall  
 September 26<sup>th</sup> – Rhu Stoer Hall      October -      No meeting  
 November 28<sup>th</sup> – Lochinver Village Hall      December -      No meeting