

## STAFFIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Minutes of Staffin Community Council held in Staffin School on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008.

**Present:** Les Downes (Chair), Sylvia Porter (secretary), Janet Lamont, Sheena MacLeod, Maolios Caimbeul, Norma Young,

**Apologies:** Isobel MacDonald

Also present was Jan Laing, Ward Manager of Highland Council.

Les welcomed Jan to the meeting and introduced her to everybody. Jan stated that she was still finding her feet as she had only been in the job for 2 months. She had lost her secretary, Moreen Pringle, which is a big blow, especially as the council elections are due this year, and that will be a nightmare. Jan is employed to act between the highland council and the community councils, and it is hoped that having ward forums, both can work together. One of her missions is to make the council more accessible, and once issues are raised that they are dealt with. It is apparent that the same issues are coming up month after month and never appear to be finalised. There should be an audit trail for issues and a final outcome.

**Ward Forum.** Any body can attend a ward forum; it isn't just open to community council members. It didn't matter when or where it was held, it didn't please everyone. Highland Council, Council HQ, and community councils set the agenda. It could be more interesting. It didn't help that small issues were not dealt with properly and finalised, and if these cannot be sorted, how can Highland Council sort out larger ones

**CC Elections.** We are too small a community to find a returning officer, as there are a lot of legal implications. If the legislation is already in place for community council elections, and it hasn't been changed, how can Highland Council change the running of elections now, by interpreting the legislation differently? The legality of community councils should be looked at and our position be clarified. Jan agreed to be our returning officer for the forthcoming elections. A block advert will be going in the free press in the near future, and nomination forms sent to secretaries. The nominees, the proposers and the seconders must be on the electoral roll.

**Single Track Road.** The A855 from Achachork to Brides Veil Waterfall is now on the capital programme for upgrading, and will be discussed at the next ward business meeting

Jan Laing left the meeting and the normal business began. The previous minutes were proposed by Janet and seconded by Sheena.

### **Matters Arising:**

- 1. Fire Brigade:** Tony Wood had sent an e-mail saying there was a light at the end of the tunnel. The land had a decrofting order and the settlement should be made soon. Les will keep in touch with them for updates.
- 2. Bins at Rigg:** They have been replaced.
- 3. Murdo Beaton Talk:** It is booked for 11<sup>th</sup> April at 7-30pm at Columba 1400. Admission will be £3, and tea and coffee will be served. The title will be "In the footsteps of a hero". The advert had already appeared in the WHFP, but didn't mention a venue. Sheena has been in touch and if room, they will re run the advert with the venue. It was decided that if there were any profit at the end of the night, we would make a donation to the charity "Hope for Heroes". Murdo has asked that we provide a laptop and digital projector. If C1400 cant assist, Norma will see what she can organise.
- 4. Keep left sign Lealt Falls:** It is waiting for the white lining machine to come to the island

5. **Rigg Crash Barrier:** From Highland Council, it is highly unlikely it will be done as an assessment has been done previously, and it wasn't thought that it was required.
6. **Late Night Taxis:** The previous minutes should have read that people from the Inverness bus were waiting around Portree for an hour until the Glasgow bus arrived, before the late night taxi went round the North end of the island. Les will bring this to the attention of Jan Laing.
7. **Rubbish dumping Valtos:** It is council policy to leave the rubbish, so they wont be clearing it up. It is unsightly. Had it been just vegetation it wouldn't have been as bad, but there is broken drain pipe and rubbish in with it. If this is council policy perhaps it ought to be brought to the attention of the ward forum meeting for a policy change. After all it had to be moved from Culnacnoc in a lorry to Valtos, why couldn't they take the lorry to Portree?

#### **Treasurers Report:**

There is £1179 in the account, which includes the Village Officer Fund. Les has done the end of year accounts and will endeavour to get them audited.

#### **Highland Council Business:**

1. Highland Development Plan scheme – Feedback and newsletter
2. Am Baille – posters for distribution
3. Alcohol and Young person Seminar – Aros

#### **Other Correspondence:**

1. Scottish Exec – Climate Change Bill consultation
2. Scottish Exec – Planning Modernisation Development consultation
3. Post Office – Network Change Plan
4. Forest Enterprise – Action plan for Climate Change
5. Forest Enterprise – Meetings throughout Highland region about plans for forestry.
6. NHS – Team Leader newsletters
7. MOD – Flying Exercise 4<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> April, which could involve low flying and late night flying
8. Community Care Forum Newsletter
9. HEN newsletter
10. Portree High School minutes and Sky lines newsletter
11. Postwatch Scotland newsletter

#### **AOCB:**

Letter to be sent to all 4 councillors asking for their continued support for the single track road, and for them to confirm that it is on the capital programme

NEXT MEETING  
**MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2008, 7-30PM AT THE SCHOOL**

The minutes are subject to approval

Les Downes (Chairman)

Sylvia Porter (Secretary)