

STAFFIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Minutes of Staffin Community Council held in Staffin School Tuesday 15th July 2008.

Present: Les Downes, Sylvia Porter, Chrissie Ann Ross, Isobel Mac Donald, Sheena MacLeod, and Janet Lamont

Apologies: Norma Young and Maoilios Caimbeul

Les opened the meeting and welcomed Chrissie Ann as a new co-opted member. The previous minutes were proposed by Janet and seconded by Isobel.

Matters Arising:

1. Keep left sign Lealt: Still nothing been done. Les has spoken to Mark Crowe and advised him. Mark will see if he can find funding to put up two keep left signs or failing that will get the council lads to paint two arrows in the road. Due to other commitments neither will be done before the middle of August
2. Subsidised Taxi service: Janet has written a letter of complaint to David Summers (H/C Inverness) about the taxi service not running at 8-30pm and being left stranded in Portree for an hour until the 9-30 run. Chrissie stated that she had also written a letter of complaint prior to her being elected on to the council. She had paid for a normal taxi from Portree due to the subsidised one not running, and has asked for a refund from Highland council. Sylvia stated that there is now a sign on the bus stop in Portree stating that the 8-30pm taxi service will not be running signed by the taxi operator. It was queried that he was not fulfilling his H/C contract. David Summers is supposed to be attending the next ward forum meeting. If he is there Les will bring the subject up.
3. A855: Sheena has written to all of the Skye Councillors asking for confirmation that the single-track road is on the capital programme. 2 months on and she has not received an acknowledgement or comment from any of them. This will be brought up at the next ward forum meeting. There is apparently £250k available for upgrading the road this year. Work will start late autumn/early winter for widening blind hills and bad bends into 2 lanes.
4. Resurfacing Grealin: Les has again been in touch with Mark Crowe who states that this work will be done as and when someone available
5. Rubbish Dump Valtos: Nothing been done. The council own the land and appear to be using the lay-by as a rubbish dump
6. Fire Brigade: Nothing new, Les will chase up again
7. Cattle Grid C1400: Jackie Gillies at C1400 informed and will pass it on. Also mentioned the complaints we have had about the noise from the bottle bank. No-one has complained to them, and if they get complaints they will see about moving it
8. Bus Shelter Staffin House: The council are aware. They are going to replace the broken glass panels with aluminium ones
9. Village Officer: Sylvia to ask the village officer to clear bus shelters Culnacnoc to Flodigarry, Clear the verge of the beach road from the main road to the chalets and put preservative on the various picnic benches including the seat in Tigh na Glebe. UPDATE – Sylvia has spoken with him, and it is on the work sheets for the next few weeks, weather depending

Treasurers Report:

The balance is currently £1045 with no outstanding cheques

Highland Council Business:

Planning: Full plans received for house at 8 Clachan by Mairi Gillies – No objections.

All planning applications are available on the H/C website. Staffin CC does not make objections to any planning applications unless it affects the whole community.

1. Island Access Strategy: This is running between 2008 and 2011. The consultation period is now running and is available on the H/C website
2. Scottish Government Consultation on Safeguarding Local Schools: This consultation is available on the Scottish Government website. It is improving the way school closure notices may be done in the future

NHS Business:

All newsletters have already given to Isobel. The questionnaire from last month has been completed with a note advising that we are a rural community, not a town or city.

Other Correspondence:

1. Post office: Outreach services leaflet, which has been distributed to local shops. Staffin is not on the closure list at this time
2. Highland Archaeology Fortnight: Sylvia had received correspondence asking for the SCC to be involved. She has passed the information to her brother who is involved in Viking Re-enactment. Although he is unable to attend (English school holidays different to Scottish ones) he has passed the info to friends in Orkney. Staffin Trust have been informed and a discussion took place (or was it reminiscing) of a Viking pageant at Duntulm years ago – could we have a re-enactment of a re-enactment!! This to stay on the agenda until the next meeting
3. Highland Community Mediation: A free service that is open to everybody by referrals from any source (police, social services, highland council etc) or from individuals over the phone
4. War Memorial Trust: A national charity for repair to free standing war memorials. They will fund up to 75% of repair costs. An application pack is available on the web site. To stay on file in case of future use
As a result of this it was brought up that the drain through the park of the Staffin war memorial is a blocked making the area quagmire in wet weather. Village officer informed.
5. Portree High school minutes
6. Local Bites newsletter: lists farmers markets throughout the area. Portree is every Thursday 10am to 2pm until September
7. Skye and Lochalsh Community Care: newsletter

AOCB:

1. Culnacnoc sign by the war memorial (coming North) is in the ditch - Martin Crowe to be informed
2. Sartle Cemetery: Not easily accessible to disabled people. The gradient on the path into the cemetery is too steep for disabled people or elderly reliant on sticks. Could the path be re sited or railings put at the side of the present path

The Next Meeting is Monday 1st September at the School

Minutes subject to approval