

## STAFFIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Minutes of Staffin Community Council held in Staffin School on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2007

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

**Apologies:** Isobel MacDonald

Also present were Anne Bethune – Non-executive director NHS Highland, and Kate Earnshaw – NHS Highland, Clinical Co-ordinator for Skye and Lochalsh. They were here to give a presentation about NHS Highland. It came as a surprise to all of us that NE Skye is classed as one of the most deprived areas, and is not recognised as such. This is because of low paid/seasonal employment, and old houses that are poorly insulated. Death rates within Skye and Lochalsh are falling, but life expectancy is improving, which equates to an older population requiring NHS help. NHS are hoping to tackle ill health closer to home, and prevent older people being kept in hospital, and have more care within the community. Kate gave us facts and figures regarding patients who have long-term medical conditions and their reliance on the NHS. This part of the service must be looked at, and NHS admits there is a problem, and that resources aren't been managed properly. The presentation then moved on to the hospital situation. Hospitals on Skye don't do as much as they used to do, but still treat minor lumps and bumps etc. One of the reasons is that there is nowhere on Skye to do a general anaesthetic, as there is no recovery area if things go wrong, and because of the suing culture today they need this facility on site. Therefore where a general anaesthetic is required the patient must travel to the consultants at either Raigmore or Belford Hospital. One of the main frameworks that are being worked on is anticipating and managing care. Included in this, is the Out of Hours service. This is causing a problem on Skye due to the rural location, although this slightly improved that the call centre is now in Inverness, so at least the staff have a clue about the geography of the area. One big problem is that NHS Highland now covers Argyll and Bute. It is the biggest NHS area in Scotland, by area, not population. Regarding the Nurses Cottage in Staffin, it doesn't comply with the Disability Act. NHS is still looking at moving in to the new hall. There is certainly no capital funding for a new build, but there is a small amount of funding available for Staffin. There was then a general question and answer session, and discussions about various subjects.

Dentists: The UK has a lack of dentists, not just Skye, although we are better off than most areas, in that we have a few private practices, which is not ideal.

Homeopathy: NHS has no problems with it as long as it is done within their guidelines, and doesn't compromise any other treatments. There are some GP's who also practice homeopathy.

Out of Hours: There is a lot of fear over NHS 24 and out of hour's service. NHS doesn't envisage any change, as there has been no major catastrophe, just hic-cups (there words not mine!!) The call centre is now in Inverness, which is still not ideal, but at least they have more of a clue regarding the geography of the area. If any one experiences problems, ring Alison Hudson at Broadford Hospital. NHS will be then made aware of the problems, what and why it went wrong and can learn by the mistakes

1<sup>st</sup> Response: Someone with in the community is trying to get 1<sup>st</sup> Response off the ground, but it is getting blocked from the ambulance service

Ambulance: There are complaints regarding a lack of ambulance at the north end. The NHS answer is that they are under resourced. There is only 1 vehicle that can take wheelchairs, and it covers Skye/Caithness/Fort William, and there is passenger prioritisation. Ambulance cars are also limited.

Regarding the last two questions NHS Highland, although aware, were quick to point out that that NHS and Ambulance are two separate entities.

Anne and Kate then left the meeting and the usual business began.

The previous minutes were approved and seconded by Janet Lamont and Sheena MacLeod.

**Matters arising:**

1. Fire Brigade: Planning permission for the permanent site has been reapplied for, and the Highland Council legal dept are currently looking at it. As this is ongoing, matter to stay open

2. Pot Holes: Highland Council are fully aware of the ongoing problem and matter now closed unless a major issue comes to light

3. Village Officer: Work still ongoing. Perhaps we could ask him to either trim the bus shelters again or the road to the slipway

4. Bins: Still no bins at the Slipway or at Loch Langaig. The Slipway area is littered with rubbish and plastic bags. Mark Crowe at Highland Council is aware, but will be reminded

5. Marine National Park: Matter closed

6. Culnacnoc Cemetery: The wall has now been repaired and the gates closed.

7. Barrier Kilmartin River: There is no funding available for a barrier to be placed between Keeper Cottage and the cattle grid, but there is a possibility of a rylock fence

**Treasurers Report:**

£1110-84 in the account, but a cheque for £140 is pending from the picnic bench at Loch Cuithir

**Highland Council Business:**

Planning: New House, Marishadder – Donald Ross. No objections

Ward Forum: Details of the new ward forum meeting is at Tigh Na Sgire 2pm Mon 18<sup>th</sup> June.

They also issued a list dates for future meetings

Core Paths Plan: List of dates around Skye and Lochalsh. The meeting for our area is at Uig on 18<sup>th</sup> June from 3pm

Letter from John MacDonald: Letter states that the point of contact for all community council Matters is still Tigh Na Sgire

Licensing applications: Columba 1400, Pieces of Ate, Staffin Stores, and Duntulm Hotel

**Other Correspondence:**

NHS: NHS update and Scottish Health Council News

Mono Consultants: Information regarding an update to Clachan Mast, putting up a new TETRA Aerial

MOD: Letter explaining that the military exercise in the area will continue for a further week

Beautiful Scotland: Neighbourhood awards

HIE: Letter stating future magazines/ newsletters will be sent by e-mail

Sconser CC: Letter to Highland Council on behalf of all CC's asking for extended powers to receive relevant minutes via e-mail

Blythswood: The next Blythswood van visit will be 19<sup>th</sup> June from 2-45 to 3-30pm

Housing Trust: Newsletter

Food Network: Newsletter

Portree High School: Minutes

Postwatch Scotland: Newsletter

**AOCB**

No- one had anything further to report.

THE NEXT MEETING IS 7<sup>TH</sup> **AUGUST AT 7-30PM** AT THE SCHOOL

**MINUTES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL**

**Les Downes (Chairperson)**

**Sylvia Porter (Acting Secretary)**

Copies to:

Post Office

MacKenzie Stores

Staffin Stores and Hall

Columba 1400

File

Highland Council