

STAFFIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Minutes of Staffin Community Council held in Staffin School on 6th March 2007

Present: Les Downes (chair), Sylvia Porter (Acting Secretary), Janet Lamont, Sheena MacLeod, Maoilios Caimbeul, Andy MacKay (H/C Education, Leisure and Culture Dept)

Apologies: Isobel MacDonald, Norma Young

The previous minutes were proposed and seconded by Janet and Sheena

Les introduced Andy MacKay, who was here to talk about the option to fund the development of the school playing field. Andy stated he had previously had meetings with the youth club about the condition of the playing fields and lack of changing rooms. There is a short-term plan for the playing fields, for which there is a funding of a few thousand pounds, to de-stone and re-build the surface. This is planned for mid March to April or when the rain stops!

The playing field at Staffin can't cope with the Skye weather, and in the long term H/C are looking at ways for relevant parties (CC, Football team, Youth Club, School etc.) to fund the improvement of the pitch. The idea is that the relevant parties will work together to provide funding to bring the field to good standard. The thought is that at the moment, let the work that needs doing be done, and see how it survives. As H/C is being re-organised, let it settle down and then invite someone from the new Education Dept to a meeting to see a way forward. It could be a 10-20 yr plan.

If we are looking at funding the playing field it will mean that a management committee will be set up, made up of members from all interested parties, and they will be responsible for organising funding, fund raising and organising the relevant insurances etc. H/C will help with funding. In effect the management committee would be taking over the responsibilities of the H/C.

There was then a discussion regarding the re-structure of the Highland Council. There would be three core areas, and we would be the middle one, covering Ross and Cromarty, Skye and Lochaber. There would be an area manager, and a ward manager covering individual areas, who would be our point of contact. With this reorganisation, council members will have to be re-elected.

We also discussed involvement of young people in the voluntary sector, and we were told about a successful scheme at Waternish. Andy MacKay then left the meeting, and the meeting proper continued.

Matters Arising:

1. Fire Brigade: Les has heard nothing further. Alec MacAllister has not been available. David Gill has been in touch, but can offer nothing further regarding the permanent site, although it is believed that there has been a set back as H/C legal team have mislaid the application!! Leave matter open
2. Potholes: Nothing new. The new Clerk of works is Mark Crowe. Les will make himself known to him and notify him of the problems.
3. Village Officer: Graham Wade will give us a costing for the repair of the picnic benches, so we can see how the money is going. Due to the weather he has been unable to do any of the work, but is hoping to have it done before the season starts. A suggestion was made that perhaps a picnic bench could be purchased (with the rest of the village officer money) and placed at Loch Cuithir. Sylvia to speak to Donald MacDonald (Staffin Trust) regarding this, and if the trust approve, whoever makes the bench to liaise with Donald MacLeod (Culnacnoc) for sighting it, so as not to hinder crofters vehicular movements.
4. Bins: The bin at Rigg has been replaced and re-sited. It has been turned round 90° so that the lid is blown shut by the prevailing wind. Still no sign of a bin at the slip.

5. Drains: Still nothing done at Breckery. Les will inform H/C. Also the problem with flooding on the corner at Glasphein needs attention.
6. Portree Hospital: No further news. Matter closed
7. Rapsons: Les has spoken to both David Summers and Mark MacKenzie (H/C transport dept), but without specific dates, times and route number Rapsons can take no action. They have suggested that if anyone has any complaints about the bus service, they ring Rapsons immediately with the relevant details. Rapsons would only be able to follow up a complaint for up to 2 weeks after the event. If we wait until the next council meeting, for us to take the matter up, it could be too late. Regarding the Saturday 8am service, they are adamant that this does run, but regular bus users know different.
8. Phone box at Marishadder: This has been reported

Treasurers Report:

There is no change from the figures last month. There is still £1253-60 in the account, but this includes the village officer funding.

Highland Council Business:

Planning: ½ 9 Clachan, new house

Taigh nam Braithrean, Valtos – extension and alteration

Affordable Housing: Meeting at UHI Inverness on 27/2/07

Renewing democracy community planning survey 2006

Planning meetings and agendas: Nothing new

Licensing applications: Renewal at Staffin Stores

Other Correspondence:

Scottish Parliament: Future of Postal Services Survey, completed already as had to be in prior to meeting

Fire Service: Meeting 13/3 at Cuillin Hills regarding the integrated action plan

Blythswood: They are having a textile recycling collection service and will be calling at the hall once a week

Housing Association: there was a special meeting on 5/3 regarding proposed new rule changes, also newsletter

Portree High School: Minutes

NHS: newsletter

Innis: Newsletter

Crown Estates: Newsletter

AOCB:

Speed: There have been complaints about speeding vehicles through Staffin, not just private cars, but delivery lorries. The police have been informed and are monitoring the situation. The council are looking at placing advisory signs on the approach to Staffin, and as a temporary measure having the mobile smiling/frowning face speed deterrent

Signs: Flodigarry Grazing Committee have approached us asking for help. They want a sign at the bottom of the Loch Langaig path to the Quiraing asking for dogs to be kept on leads. We have suggested they get a quote for a sign, and depending on money at the end of the financial year, we may be able to help with a donation. It was also suggested that they approach the trust, as they are putting finger posts up on the footpaths, that they could perhaps incorporate this onto their signage

NEXT MEETING 7-30PM 3RD APRIL 2007 AT THE SCHOOL

MINUTES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL