

South Harris Community Council Minutes 25/5/2023 in Leverburgh Free Church Hall at 7.30pm

Present – Donnie MacDonald – Chair; Marion Morrison – Treasurer; Stephen MacKinnon – Secretary; Lucy Duff; Jenny MacAulay; Cllr Finnegan

Apologies – Effie MacLeod – Vice-Chair; Caroline Chaffer; John R MacLean; Patricia Martin; Cllr Fulton

1. Minutes of previous meeting – Proposed by Jenny and seconded by Lucy.
2. Matters Arising –
 - Gym Bookings – Bookings can now be made in Leverburgh Gym.
3. It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Patricia Martin as a member.
4. Housing Update –
 - 6 objections. Understood that 2 are outright objections to the development while 4 relate to the location of the access road.
 - As a result, the decision on whether planning will be granted will go to a full Planning Board decision which will delay the process. The Planning Board may meet in June to discuss but if they do not, it is likely to be September before the next meeting.
 - Donnie along with the Harris councillors is continuing to push for the full 12 houses to be built but HHP are still sticking to 6 which is in the current SHIP model.
 - Waiting list is currently at 15. Donnie awaiting a further update from HHP.
 - Donnie continues to be involved in the Harris Forum Housing sub-group which is getting the message out to all stakeholders on the need for housing.
 - Report from HHP outlining options on how the other 6 may be built has been circulated publicly. There are several options explored including rent to buy and shared equity. It was agreed that once a decision is reached by planning, a public meeting should be held in either Leverburgh School Gym or Village Hall where HHP, TIG, HIE come along and talk through these options and answer questions from the public. The public may then be asked to fill in a survey indicating their preferred option.
5. Community Transport Update – Donnie waiting to hear back from Raymond re possibility of putting on extra bus runs during the summer in the evening between Horgabost camp site and Leverburgh.
6. Rodel Toilets – Doing very well and being regularly used.
7. Finances –
 - Marion gave an update. £3,600 in account. Another £1,000 will be added after CNES auditing is complete.
 - Email from Village Hall Chair, Hugh MacLean, requesting financial support for purchasing equipment for floor curling and badminton. Agreed that SHCC will contribute £336 for one pack of floor curling equipment. It is understood that badminton will take place in School Gym rather than the Hall. Stephen to write to Hugh with this decision. If accepted, a cheque can go out after CNES auditing process is complete.

8. HPMA's – No updates.
9. Leverburgh Play park –
 - Lucy, Jenny, and Stephen attended meeting held on Wednesday 17th May.
 - Play park may need to be closed short term if it is deemed to be unsafe.
 - It is understood that the lease from CNES has run out. Representatives from the Play park group are in touch with CNES regarding a condition survey and the lease.
 - Donnie suggested that a legal entity be set up and the purchase of the land made for £1 if possible. As soon as the amount of money needed to make Play-park safe along with insurance is quantified, they should come back to SHCC to request either part or full funding for this.
 - Donnie confirmed that project is on the updated Harris Plan. It was suggested that a request could be made to the Harris Forum for some of the Development Officer's time towards this project.
10. Clean Up –
 - Kenny MacLeod has started the grass cutting around the verges in Leverburgh.
 - Village Clean up will run for a week from 29th May. Marion has made arrangements for the skip.
 - Kids from the school will do a day of supervised cleaning up.
 - Donnie will collect bags, gloves, and skip key from Stornoway.
 - Lucy to set up Facebook page for Community Council. Stephen and Effie will be admins along with Lucy.
 - Lucy and Stephen to co-ordinate publicity for clean up with Catriona MacLennan.

Date of Next Meeting – TBC depending on Planning decision.