

SANDWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY 18th MARCH 2025

**WITHIN THE UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM, SANDWICK
HALL**

Sederunt: - Bob Walker, Chairperson, Rosemary MacRitchie, Joanne O'Donnell, Donald MacDonald

Councillors: - Angus McCormack, Cllr. George Murray

Attendee: - John Cunningham, Chief Planning Officer, Western Isles Council

Apologies: - Rhoda MacKenzie, Nicola MacSween, Cllrs. Rae MacKenzie and Frances Murray

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: - The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18th February 2025 which had been circulated prior to the meeting, were adopted as a true record. Proposed by Rosemary MacRitchie, seconded by Joanne O'Donnell

Ferry Services: - There is something happening with the passenger access ramp but nothin concrete has been publicised by Stornoway Port Authority.

Point & Sandwick Trail: Councillor McCormack informed the meeting that plans are almost complete for the Melbost, Brananhuie and Aignish section of the path.

Retain on Agenda

Sandwick Hub: - Assessment to be funded by Point and Sandwick Trust to purchase site. A professional person will be progressing this due to the large scale of the project.

Retain on Agenda

Community Council Finance: - No update available

Retain on Agenda

Local Place Plan: No further progress made at this time

Retain on Agenda

Spiorad na Mara: - The meeting was advised that the large cable would be going underground following the road from the westside to Arnish. If this project goes ahead it meeting felt that the Council should insist that the roads involved should be upgraded to a high level.

Retain on Agenda

Lewis Hub 400Kv Substation: - The Planning application to seek permission to build the HVDC Converter Station was published by the Council on 28th February 2025. This was not circulated to us until the 13th March 2025 although we have been getting Planning applications on a weekly basis up until then. The Community Council agreed that we should submit our response of objecting to this application on various grounds. Bob stated that as he was not knowledgeable about this, he would need assistance in preparing our objection to the application. The closing date for comments is 19th April 2025.

Retain on Agenda

Melbost West – Housing Development: - Bob welcomed John Cunningham to the meeting. Mr Cunningham gave the meeting a full brief of what is possibly being proposed for this housing development and the Airport development. He stated that this is only what HHP and SSEN have spoken to the Planning Department to date as no formal planning applications have been received. He advised the meeting that HHP would build around half the houses and SSEN would build the remainder. Once Arnish is complete, if it goes ahead, the houses built by SSEN would be given to HHP. Members of the Community Council asked various questions in relation to this proposed planning application. Concerns were raised regarding the huge increase to the population of 1,500 workers. This does not include the family numbers coming to the Island. What has been discussed regarding NHS, Education, Road Traffic issues, Policing and noise pollution. Mr Cunningham stated that he could not answer these points now, and this would be looked at when the final planning application is submitted. Concerns were also raised as to the increased volume of traffic and passengers on the Loch Seaforth, which is so close to breaking point at this time that present Islander are having to book so far ahead to get a vehicle on the ferry. Mr Cunningham informed the meeting that the points raised by the Community Council would be taken into consideration at the time of the planning application being received. This is to be looked at very closely when the application for planning permission is published by Sandwick Community Council

Retain on Agenda

Flooding Mossend: - The roads dept have cleaned the ditches along Mossend. They have also cleared the ditches from the top of Plasterfield to the junction with Constable Road and Mossend. Run off's have also been prepared to take the rainwater of the road surface into the ditches.

Retain on Agenda

Facebook Page: - Rosemary suggested that the Community Council should have a Facebook Page. All agreed that this would be a good idea. Rosemary to progress this.

Retain on Agenda

AOCB: - None

Date of Next Meeting – 29th April 2025