

South Harris Community Council Meeting 07/07/2025 at 7.30pm in South Free Church Hall

Present – Donnie MacDonald – Chair; Lucy Duff – Vice-Chair; Stephen MacKinnon – Secretary; Marion Morrison – Treasurer; Julian Saurin; Bob Chaffer; Effie MacLeod; Jenny MacAulay; Cllr Finnegan; Eva Kreileder - Harris Forum Development Officer

1. Apologies – Cllr Kenny MacLeod
2. Minutes of last meeting 27th May 2025 – Lucy proposed, and Bob seconded.
3. Matter Arising – None
4. Eva –
 - Map showing Local Place Plan for Harris – Leverburgh in detail was discussed.
 - Discussion about whether school catchment areas are enforced.
 - Cllr Finnegan has entered meeting at 8pm
 - Food Bank – Suggest to Mairi MacIver that SHCC share advertising of box within Hub. An outdoor area at the back of the Hub was suggested as being a possibility.
 - Leverburgh Pier – Suggestion to make perimeter of fence at fisherman's yard and car parks look better by planting. Outer Hebrides Development plan mentions on Pg 10 about enhancing this area.
 - Leverburgh Pier Enhancement Group – Put in touch with Eva so that those plans are included – **Donnie and Stephen.**
 - Shuttle buses for tourists as an aspiration.
 - Traffic calming measures outside school and Clachan corner to be included.
 - **Donnie to speak to Eva separately re other South Harris settlements.**
5. Ecoli – Luskentyre –
 - Recap of current situation by the Chair.
 - Sub-group met with Alastair Allan MSP recently. Letter sent to SEPA after meeting – they have offered to meet Alastair Allan and sub-group.
 - Frustration at lack of action from CNES and SEPA to work with Professor Jill Robbie..
6. Northton Grazings –
 - Issue of derelict vehicles on Northton Machair. One of the vehicles has been moved within a month of asking. No further reply from Grazings committee re request to move vehicles – initial reply was that vehicles are on machair crofting land rather than common grazings.

- 1 car on Common Grazings land – have been told its due to be moved by the individual.
 - **Bob to approach individual on behalf of SHCC re two cars on crofting land.**
7. Scarista Scout Bus – **Quote received, and Donnie will present to Scout Association for acceptance.**
8. Housing Update –
- First 5 allocated, next 7 will be allocated by end of September.
 - Housing in Scarista – Church of Scotland due to sell land to the West Harris Trust, part of the glebe.
 - HHP, TIG involved in discussions regarding building 7 houses on this land. No planning application has gone to the council yet.
 - Report put together by some residents outlining concerns, this has been communicated to SHCC. Chair has suggested they set up as a group and a spokesperson interacts with the SHCC.
 - Sub-Group – Donnie, Bob, Effie, Patricia (**Donnie will speak to**).
9. Playpark –
- Fire Brigade car wash raised £682 for playpark.
 - Playpark equipment dismantled last week.
 - £3,600 in funds, and £75k from CNES, so far. Possibility of further grant funding.
 - Old bank account and old committee members have been found, and old constitution will be resurrected. This is being worked on.
 - Alex Murray groundworks – **Lucy to check if approach has been made.**
10. Grant Funding - Received from Foundation Scotland and Coastal Community Fund for Rodel Toilets and Community Garden. Thank you to Marion and Stephen for their efforts.
11. Other funding opportunities – Eva has circulated various funding opportunities. SHCC will circulate to other groups.
12. Sheep in Village – Donnie has been in touch with Common Grazings Clerk – no response yet. There should be no sheep in Leverburgh, particularly bad issue at new houses.
13. Potholes in Borrisdale and Strond –
- Thanks to both Councillors again for Northton road resurfacing.

- Potholes have been filled in Borrisdale, Strond still waiting. **Cllr Finnegan to check if any more money available. Ferry Road surface also requires attention.**

14. Visitor Levy – Delayed by at least a year. Western Isles, Orkney, Shetland and other holding back to see impact in Edinburgh. A port of entry looks like being a more likely method.

Date of Next Meetings –

- Tuesday 9th September meeting
- Tuesday 11th November meeting