

SHAWBOST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING 10.03.25 HELD AT GRINNEABHAT, BRAGAR

1. PRESENT & APOLOGIES

CC Donald Mackinnon (Chair), Peigi Ann Shields, Norman Campbell (Vice Chair), Donna Morrison & Donna Macleannan (Minutes)

Apologies:- Euan Macleod, Kathleen Macrae (Treasurer), Effie Macdonald & Kayleigh Macleod.

Councillors:- John N Macleod.

Members of the community:- 18 present.

Before the meeting began, the Chair intimated that he is standing down as he will be running as Labour candidate next year and there will be a conflict of interest. He asked if everybody was happy for him to chair this meeting meanwhile and no objections were received.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13th JANUARY 2025

Norman Campbell approved them, Peigi Ann Shields seconded them.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF 13th JANUARY

South Bragar Bridge – Donald was in touch with Katie (Common Grazings). Next meeting is on 17.03.25 and Norman Campbell is going along to discuss.

North Shawbost Bridge – No further updates. Ongoing.

Bragar Cemetery – Work has ground to a halt.

Bins – Donald chasing with Iain Norman at CNES.

Arnol Speed limit – CNES doing a review this year. A discussion was held. CNES has already been given all relevant information.

Bragar Slipway – Norman Campbell agreed to follow up with users and Bragar and Arnol Community Trust to establish who is legally responsible for the slipway. (NC to action)

Minutes - All minutes have been sent to CNES.

AGM - An AGM will have to be organised.

Gas Deliveries – Grinneabhat issue has been resolved.

4. FINANCE

£5,5955.65 in the bank account. Payment for room hire still to come out of balance.

5. N4 FOLLOW UP

Following the special meeting held in Shawbost on February 6th 2025, a list of questions were agreed to be sent to Northland Power. These were as follows –

- When do you intend to make the Environmental Impact Assessment publicly available?
- When do you intend to submit the planning applications for the project?
- The community expressed concerns about the human health impacts of the proposed development. This includes the impact of noise and light pollution (including strobing effect). Has the project undertaken studies of the human health impact of the proposals? If so, can this information be made available and if not, will the project be undertaking such work?
- The community expressed concern on the impact of the proposed development on tourism. Has the project undertaken work to assess the potential impact on the proposals on the tourism industry? If so, can this information be made available and if not, will the project be undertaking such work?

There was a lengthy discussion on N4, strong opposition to the project was raised by those in attendance.

Concern was expressed surrounding community engagement to date in relation to the current community benefit proposals negotiated by the West Side Estate Group.

There was also concern expressed about how the location of N4 had changed over time, in particular why it was sited inside the shipping lane, and questions were raised about the role of the Comhairle in this decision. Further clarification on this was requested. (Possibly a need for an action on this?)

It was requested that the community council surveys the community to inform the Community Council's response to the planning application(s) for the project. Suggestions were made on how to progress this including developing a survey and speaking to Michael Smith, UHI. (PAS to Action)

It was suggested that the Community Council engages with other Community Councils in Lewis and call a joint meeting. (PAS to Action)

6. SECRETARY ARRANGEMENTS

An advert to go out for a paid Secretary role and a shout out to encourage community members to participate in the community council.

7. AOCB

The CC advertises its meetings on FB. Can posters go up next time at the Post Office or bus shelters as not everybody is on social media (PAS to action).

In light of recent events could there be a path to cover the whole of the westside. Cycle Path Funding – could we tap into that? It was used previously.

Coastal Path – needs to be looked at again as it has not been discussed recently.

A mailing list could be set up for community members to receive minutes.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

AGM – Monday 12th May @ 7.30pm @ Raebhat House.