

SANDWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT 7.30PM
ON TUESDAY 27TH MAY 2025
WITHIN THE UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM
SANDWICK HALL

Minutes not being approved until the next AGM.

SEDERUNT: - Bob Walker, Chairperson, Anna MacFarlane, Treasurer, Rosemary MacRitchie, Joanne O'Donnell, Michael Smith, Donald MacDonald.

Councillors: - Angus McCormack.

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

This meeting was advertised in Events Isles FM and around the Community Council area but no other members of the community attended.

Bob opened the meeting and welcomed all those present to our first AGM of the current elected members of the Community Council.

Chairpersons Report

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. It gives me great pleasure in welcoming you to our Annual General Meeting.

I would like to start by thanking Rhoda our Vice Chairperson, Anna our Treasurer, Rosemary, Joanne who was co-opted onto the Community Council on 14th January 2025, Michael and Donald for their support over the past 18 months.

Since the re-election our current members of Sandwich Community Council it has been a busy time with various issues covering the Community Council area. The first main business for the Community Council was the proposed building of a church in Steinish. This was strongly opposed by the residents and the Community Council put an objection into the proposed planning application to the Planning Department, Western Isles Council. This application was rejected at a Planning Committee meeting.

Ferry services continue to be part of our agenda. The main issue was the lack of the passenger access ramp which had broken down in December 2023. Following several letters to Stornoway Port Authority, this has still not been resolved. In May 2024 the Community Council wrote to Stornoway Port Authority regarding the use of a vehicle to transport luggage on and off the ferry. This appeared to fall on deaf ears until Stornoway Community Council also suggested this. To date information regarding the essential repair or replacement of this vital structure is not forthcoming from Stornoway Port Authority.

The proposed building of the Lewis Hub 400Kv Substation was our next major issue. Following various consultations with SSEN and the views of the local community an objection was submitted to the Planning Department, Western Isles Council on 17th April 2025. A Press release was also sent to Events and the Stornoway Gazette. Only Events have published our reasons for objection.

The next main concern for our community council area is the proposed building of 160 houses in Melbost West. This is presently on hold as we await the proposed planning application to be lodged with the Western Isles Council.

The following items are presently on our current monthly meetings agenda: -

Memorial Plaque, Ferry Services, Point and Sandwick Trail, Sandwick Hub, Local Place Plan, Spoirad na Mara wind turbines and Melbost West.

As can be seen the Community Council is very busy with various items that affect our community. I hope that in the future Sandwick Community Council will continue to support issues that affect our community.

Once again may I close by thanking you all for attending. I would also like to give a special thank you to Cllrs Angus McCormack. George Murray, Frances Murray and Rae MacKenzie for their continued support to Sandwick Community Council.

Treasurers Report: - Anna circulated to all present a copy of Sandwick Community Council accounts up to 31st March 2025. Anna gave a break down of income and expenditure. Anna informed the meeting that £12,729.72p is currently held in the Community Council account. She advised the meeting that a copy of the accounts would be submitted to the Western Isles Council for auditing.

Bob requested that the accounts be approved. This was proposed by Rosemary and seconded by Joanne.

Bob thereafter stood down as Chairperson and asked Councillor Angus McCormack to take the roll of Chairperson until a chairperson had been elected by those present.

Councillor McCormack requested nominations for the position of Chairperson.

Bob was proposed by Rosemary and seconded by Anna. There being no other nominations all present agreed that Bob be Chairperson.

Bob resumed the role of Chairperson and requested nominations as Vice Chairperson. Michael was proposed by Rosemary and seconded by Anna. There were no nominations present agreed that Micheal be Vice Chairperson.

Bob requested nominations for the role of Treasurer. Anna was proposed by Rosemary and seconded by Michael. There being no other nominations all agreed that Anna continue in the role of Treasurer.

Bob brought up the role of Clerk. It was decided that he would remain as Clerk meantime.

AOCB : - None

There being no other business Bob closed the meeting.