

SHAWBOST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Tuesday 10 December 2024

1. Present and Apologies:

CC: Donald MacKinnon (Chair) Kathleen MacRae (Treasurer), Effie MacDonald, Peigi Ann Shields, Donna MacLennan.

Apologies: Euan MacLeod (Secretary), Alicia Matthews, Donna Morrison, Cllr Donald MacSween, Norman Campbell, Kaleigh Macleod

Councillors: Cllr Kenny MacLeod

Community Residents: Laura McEwan, Elsa McTaggart and Gary Lister.

2. Minutes of Meeting 8th October 2024.

Minutes approved by Effie MacDonald, seconded by Donna MacLennan.

3. Matters arising:

Donald chased the point about Northland having compulsory purchase powers. A response from Denise Horan of Northland stated that they do have compulsory purchase powers under the electricity act but do not intend to use it. She also provided answers to questions raised at the meeting.

South Bragar Machair Bridge meeting not held. The issue is ongoing from previous Community Council. Community Council reps to meet with South Bragar Common Grazings. Consensus is that Shawbost CC should not take responsibility for this. Donald to contact South Bragar CG Clerk.

North Shawbost Bridge is being used by campervans frequently and does not look stable. CnES needs to look at it to ensure its safety.

War Memorial Planning Application is ongoing and application has been paid for.

Bragar Cemetery Planning has not been submitted. There are currently no funds. Is funding available for the necessary Archaeological Report? Effie to keep CC posted on updates.

Bragar Shore Road. Donald has had a response CnES that there are no immediate concerns possible resurfacing could take place in the future.

Donald has been in touch with Iain Norman Campbell at the Comhairle regarding signage for bins. Trying to get something in place before next season. Eg signage text: "If the bin is full contact..."

Crown Estate Funding. Issue closed.

Local Place Plans - Extension to 2025. It doesn't have to be a set area. It is worth having local organisations working together on this to avoid multiple plans covering the same area.

Speeding in Arnol. Donna spoke to the Comahirle. It will be looked at next year in line with policy change. Cllr Kenny Macleod was asked to find out the best way for the Community Council to influence this process.

Norman Campbell had raised the issue of the slipway in Bragar. It had been suggested that Bragar and Arnol Trust had responsibility for the slipway, Bragar and Arnol Community Trust do not think this is the case. The meeting felt that it would be sensible for users to take responsibility for its upkeep.

4. Finance. Balance £5,995.65. Kathleen informed the CC that as of January, Bank of Scotland will be charging a monthly fee. There is an option to move to Virgin Money but they are likely to introduce charges as well. Consensus is to absorb the fee.

AGM and accounts arrangements to be confirmed.

5. N4 Public Meeting. Donald awaiting a response from Alasdair Allan. Torcuil will do it and will be as flexible as possible with dates. Fridays are suggested for best chances of availability. January 31st ideally to have a full two weeks to notify the community and to ensure that the meeting is held before planning applications may be lodged (February).

Suggestions for Chair at the meeting. Coinneach Mòr as someone who would be impartial. Derek MacKay. Venue suggested was Ionad na Seann Sgoil

Donald highlighted that a consultation process was due to begin in the New Year on the previously announced £4.5 million community benefit fund associated with N4. The consultation would be led by an independent consultant paid for by Northland and will explore community aspirations and the structure and governance of the proposed fund.

6. Planning Applications: Nothing further.

7. Secretary. Ness CC and the previous Shawbost CC had a paid secretary (it was an organisation that operated as a clerk for the CC). Annual allowance of £500. Considerations should be given to secretary position and remuneration for the role at the next meeting.

Next Meeting Date: January 7th 2025