

## South Harris Community Council Meeting 27/05/2025 at 7.30pm in South Free Church Hall

Present – Donnie MacDonald – Chair; Stephen MacKinnon – Secretary; Marion Morrison – Treasurer; Julian Saurin; Lucy Duff; Patricia Martin; Bob Chaffer

1. Apologies – Effie MacLeod, Caroline Chaffer, Cllr Finnegan, Cllr Kenny MacLeod
2. Minutes of last meeting 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – Julian proposed and Bob seconded.
3. Matters Arising –
  - Northton Grazings – Correspondence has been exchanged with Northton Grazings. It will be included on agenda of next Grazings meetings. Chair was advised that 2 of the vehicles are on crofts rather than common grazings.
  - 1 vehicle has been removed of 4.
4. E.coli Luskentyre Estuary – Discussions have been ongoing with SHCC sub-group and SEPA, CNES, and Professor Jill Robbie from Glasgow University. SHCC sub-group will meet with Alastair Allan MSP to discuss on Monday after agreement from full Community Council.
5. Housing Update –
  - Donnie, Marion and Lucy attended as members of SHCC to hand over of first 5 new houses in Leverburgh. Very impressed with the standard. Tenants are now free to move in.
  - 6<sup>th</sup> house being held back due to proximity to next phases of building.
  - Julian recorded thanks to Donnie MacDonald and all other members of SHCC at the time who played such a big part in campaigning for the 12 houses.
  - **Marion will speak to John MacIver, HHP about any possibility of changing the name, feedback has been very negative.**
6. Playpark –
  - Group of parents and Donnie as Chair are driving this process and are in discussions with CNES.
  - Site plan being created by CNES. Equipment has been picked. Parents in touch with Alex Murray about community benefit.
  - Official constitution, new committee members, office bearers etc are in progress. Donnie happy to be co-opted on as SHCC Chair.
  - Funds have been allocated from CNES - £75k. Additional fund raising will be required. Car wash from Fire Brigade is in plan.
  - Progress is likely to be incremental, it's important to get Playpark open.

7. Broadband in Rodel – Situation is similar to previous meeting. Application for the whole of the village of Rodel has been made to be covered by broadband. Survey required to be carried out of each individual house – likely to be end of year or into next year – this will be mentioned in upcoming meeting with Alastair Allan MSP.
8. Shackleton Update –
  - Memorial service went very well. Email received from Squadron Leader (Retired) passing on thanks to SHCC for all their help and have contributed £450 towards the hospitality of the event. Retiring collection of £260 was also raised after service in church – this will be donated to the playpark with a plaque to go in the playpark.
  - Lucy recorded thanks on behalf of SHCC to Marion, Effie and Donnie for organising of event.
  - Letter of thanks to Hub for reduced hire of room – **Stephen**.
9. Visitor Levy –
  - Agreement to pause entire process until November at earliest. Port of entry levy rather than accommodation levy received more support. A QR code for visitors rather than residents also received support.
  - If only a percentage based system is only one on table it will not proceed.
  - Cruise Levy – this will be in the mix for CNES come November.
  - Outer Hebrides Tourism supports a Port of Entry Levy with the lowest fee possible.
  - CNES won't go for levy in current format because they have listened to responses and recognise how unpopular it is.
10. Scarista Scout Bus – Donnie has emailed Head of Scouts, no reply has been received as of yet.
11. Northton Road –
  - Works now complete in Northton. Excellent job.
  - Anything regarding signage and bollards in Northton to be addressed to Councillors.
  - Strond/Borrisdale road will be done in coming months, although a full re-surface is not possible due to financial constraints.
12. Rodel Toilets and Community Garden –
  - Waiting on outcome of CNES Coastal Community Fund and Scottish Building Society where applications were made for both.
  - Without this funding SHCC will be unable to pay cleaner going forward.
  - Public Liability Insurance - £358.

- £2,149.17 SHCC bank account – this is general funds.
- Donation boxes to be emptied.
- Historic Environment Scotland – Had previously offered to supply consumables, this has never materialised. **Donnie is chasing update.**
- **Cllr Finnegan to ask if free consumables could be provided by CNES, call could also be put out to local businesses. Frustration from SHCC that ancient monument may not have an open toilet.**

Date of Next Meetings –

Eva, and both Councillors to be notified in advance.

- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July meeting
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September meeting
- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November meeting