



## **Minutes of Caithness West Community Council**

**2.30pm Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023 in Reay Hall**

- 1. Present:** Jillian Bundy (Chairperson), Patricia Groves (Secretary), Heather Thompson (Treasurer), David Craig, Matthew Reiss (Councillor, Highland Council), Donald Omand, Natasha Clugston, Nicky Herd, Ruth Shallcross, Roland Shallcross  
No apologies
- 2. Adoption of Minutes**  
Proposed: Heather Thompson  
Seconded: David Craig
- 3. Correspondence**  
All correspondence had been forwarded on to the committee.
- 4. Police Matters**  
There was no report
- 5. Planning and Licensing Updates**  
Preplanning submitted for 100MW Solar Panels and 100MW battery storage at Lythemore Farm. There might be a potential fire hazard and it could cover up to 400 acres of land. It is only at the scoping stage so it may not come to a planning application.
- 6. Treasurer's Report**  
There is a balance of £4995.80 in the account with an outstanding bill of £19.50 due for Hall rent.
- 7. Village Officer**  
An update was given of the village Officer duties
- 8. Renewables Developments**  
It was noted that a ship has been in the bay at Reay but there is no knowledge of what it is doing. Pat will email Pentland Offshore to ask about it. Keltbray is still working at weekends. SSEN have apologised for Sunday working.  
Jillian, Heather and David will meet with Limekiln Wind Farm at Forss Hotel at 4.00pm on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June. An update of the timeline for the work, and information about the Core Path and tree felling debris not cleared away, will all be topics brought up.  
Keltbray have been posting a list of scheduled work.  
Strathy logging lorries have been passing Heather's house at 6.00am and the reason given is to catch the tides at Scrabster.  
Highland Council do receive some money for the damage incurred on the roads from these heavy vehicles but it does not cover the costs of repair.

West of Orkney Wind Farm community consultation for pre-planning will be held in the Pentland Hotel, Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June, 3.30pm – 7.30pm.

#### **9. Dounreay Stakeholder's Group**

The next meeting is Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

Please see David's email 23<sup>rd</sup> May for the Minutes.

#### **10. Association of Community Councils' Update**

The next meeting is Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00pm

Please see email from Jillian from the 28<sup>th</sup> March about ACC meeting.

#### **11. AOB**

The road from Shebster to Thurso has had repairs carried out at the cost of £300,000. 178 roads have been repaired with 300 requiring to be done but only 50 possibly being repaired. Forss straight is in the process of being fixed. The rumble strips have to be carried out.

Thurso High School "A" block will be demolished as it would cost £6m to maintain it and £7m to rebuild it. It is thought it could be 15 years before a new school is built in Caithness. The modular buildings are now in use. There will be 6 new schools in Highland but the building programme is 6 months behind schedule.

The Roads department have agreed to supply the passive poles for the brown tourist signs but it will be, at the earliest, August before they are erected.

Matthew suggested a leaflet drop for CWCC November elections.

There will soon be no reserves in Highland Council finances and the government in Edinburgh would have to be called in to balance the finances.

On behalf of CWCC, Jillian thanked Matthew for his support and help.

The layby has been removed on Scrabster brae and a verge put in its place.

This will prevent litter being eaten by animals in the field.

The old Cemetery wall is damaged and there are fears that it could fall on someone. Heather has tried to contact HC but the ten-day response time has passed. She will keep trying to get a resolution.

Trees cover the speed signs and Heather has contacted HC but they still have not been cut back. Could the homeowners be approached?

A member of the public approached Heather about a Community Garden but not sure where this could be sited.

There was discussion about how the general public in the CWCC area hear about the Community Council and its plans/actions.

Natasha will set up a Facebook page and keep it updated. Pat to send CWCC logo to her.

Rom-Art are paid to maintain the CWCC website and the minutes are sent to Robin after each meeting. This is paid out of the CC funds and the contract has not yet run its course.

#### **Community Action Plan**

It was thought that CWCC could "piggy back" on to Melvich CC plans to set up an action plan for the area. This could be beneficial in years to come when the wind farms are producing electricity and the community funds are up and running.

Bob Kerr is waiting for information from Local Energy Scotland and once he has this, he will contact us to meet up and discuss the way forward.

#### **12. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 at 2.00pm in Reay Hall

#### **Actions**

Pat to email Pentland Offshore Wind Farm

Heather to contact Highland Council about the dangerous state of the cemetery wall.

Heather also to contact Ian Grant.

Pat to email Natasha with logo.

The meeting closed at 4.00pm