



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

**3.00pm Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 in Reay Hall**

**Present:** Patricia Groves (Secretary), Heather Thompson (Treasurer), Natasha Clugston, Nicky Herd, Donald Omand, Megan Macleod (Police Liaison), for part of the meeting, Alastair Ferrier (Chair of ACCC), for part of the meeting

**1. Apologies:** Jillian Bundy, David Craig, Karl Rosie

**2. Adoption of Minutes**

Karl emailed Pat and Jillian to ask if he could see the minute before wider publication. The committee felt the minutes are impartial and they were accepted by the meeting.

Proposed: Nicky Herd

Seconded: Natasha Clugston

**Actions from previous meeting**

Pat emailed Lisa Marchi, Jillian purchased voucher, Nicky did not see Stephen Mezals. Karl's actions to be continued – Village Officer Funding and erection of Brown Tourist Signs.

**3. Correspondence**

All correspondence had been forwarded on to the Committee.

**4. Police Matters**

[megan.macleod@scotland.police.uk](mailto:megan.macleod@scotland.police.uk)

Megan Macleod who is based in Thurso will be our new police liaison person. She reported that there had been 16 vehicle crashes, all weather related, 2 people arrested and she had visited Reay Primary School to talk with the pupils. It had been a very positive experience.

Issues the CC raised with Megan were:

The 20mph signs in Reay have been vandalised on more than one occasion. Drivers were overtaking at dangerous places.

The rumble strips at the Forss straight do not appear to be slowing down the traffic.

Unfortunately speed guns cannot be used in 20mph areas.

“Coffee with a Cop” initiative - the community can meet up with the local Police and bring up issues that concern them. Anyone who would like to arrange a session should contact Megan by email. Megan left the meeting 2.20pm.

## **5. Planning and Licensing Updates**

Nothing to report

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

There is a balance of £5423.82 in the account.

£15.00 was paid out for use of the Hall and £100.00 for a voucher for J McAdie

## **7. Village Officer**

Highland Councillors arranged the purchase of the grass cutting equipment. £500 has been given to all the Community Councils. It is a reduction from previous years. The money must be spent before the end of the financial year or it will be lost. Receipts given to Liz Geddes. Accounts to be submitted by the end of March by all the Community Councils

## **8. Renewables Development**

There are too many Wind Farms either built or in the planning stages in this area.

Orkney Caithness Liaison Group are meeting via Teams on the 15<sup>th</sup> January. Ackron Wind Farm is out for Scoping. There are 11 turbines proposed. Jillian or David will be asked to write an objection to it.

There is a proposal for Spittal substation and the HVDC Spittal to Beaully line. Geise Little - erection of Grid Stability

SSEN are planning to make Compulsory Purchase Orders from Scrabster to Strathy to enable movement of large loads for Strathy South, Wind Farm. Ian Kelly is representing Big House in their opposition and Andrew Chadwick, at Forss has also contacted his solicitor. As they are all private land owners who have been approached, it is unclear if the Community Council can object to the proposed purchases.

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

See David's email from the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024 for the Draft Minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> December.

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

There are a set number of meetings each year. The next one will be at the end of February with Christian Nicolson attending from NHS Highland.

Alastair is trying to build the Association up again and encourage more representatives from the Community Councils, to attend. It is hoped that altering the venue of the meetings each time will encourage better attendance. It is hoped to finish the meeting at 9.00pm but people can stay behind for an informal chat if they wish.

Mackenzie Sutherland is to be the new Community Development Officer with a much larger area. Helen Ross is the contact in the interim. There is no longer a Ward Manager position

Alastair left the meeting at 4.20pm.

## **11. AOB**

Heather explained about the Community Action Plan. The Melvich Committee has been reformed and there will be a board meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> January with Bill Turnbull. The draft CAP will be available to us after that. Heather will enquire if one of our committee members could attend the board meeting. Rachel, Customer Services Officer emailed 5<sup>th</sup> December to inform me that the Roads Department have not ordered the poles for the Brown Tourist

Signs. She doesn't have any powers of enforcement and there does not seem to be a way forward. Alastair suggested contacting John Mackay who carries out a variety of jobs throughout the County. However, until the poles are purchased, the signs cannot be erected.

**12. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2024 at 2.00pm in Lieurary Hall

**Actions**

Pat to email Lisa Marchi to ask for face – to - face meeting

Heather to contact Melvich Committee about attending the Board Meeting

Jillian/David to object to Ackron

Karl – Brown Tourist signs

Karl – to find out about Village Officer Funding

Meeting closed at 5.00pm