



Minutes of Caithness West Community Council 7.30pm, 18th May 2022 at Reay Hall

1. Apologies

Donald Omand, Heather Thompson, Matthew Reiss

Present: Jillian Bundy (Chairperson), Patricia Groves (Secretary),
George MacDougall (Treasurer), David Craig

A suggestion was made that perhaps Donald might be able to
access the next Meeting via Zoom as the Hall now has Internet
access.

2. Adoption of Minutes and Actions from Previous Meeting

Police Matters: change Mark Rowse to Dounreay

Minutes: Proposed: David Craig

Seconded: Jillian Bundy

3. Correspondence

The next Association of Community Councils is the 22nd May 2022
Highland Active Health Partnership asking for comments about
cycle paths.

Information from Mackenzie Sutherland regarding design
consultation.

4. Police Matters

Speed enforcement activities continue in the area with one
motorist being charged for driving at 50mph in a 30mph area. One
incident of telephone/online fraud was reported. All members of
the community are advised to be extra diligent when conversing
with people online, following web links, receiving calls and being
asked to send bank details or money for ANY reason.

5. Planning and Licensing Updates

Nothing to report

6. Treasurer's Report

Balance: £5287.95

George presented the Annual Accounts.

7. Village Officer

The annual funding should be forthcoming soon.

Jillian to contact Jamie MacDonald to ask for the grass to be cut in the Old Cemetery

Pat had contacted Ruth Shallcross about the Gardening Club planting flower containers. The CWCC would pay for the compost, plants etc. Ruth will raise the issue at the next meeting.

8. Renewables Developments

Limekiln extension and variation has been approved.

Drum Hollistan appeal has been rejected.

Exhibition for the public about the floating offshore windfarm near Dounreay was held in Reay Golf Club last week.

No fresh information about Ackron and Kirkton.

CWCC sent an objection to Tormsdale but it did not appear as it referenced protective species.

9. Dounreay Stakeholders Group

AGM and the Public Meeting were held on the 23rd March 2022.

David summarised the meeting:

DSG AGM

Struan Mackie re-elected as Chair

Davie Alexander re-elected as Vice-Chair and Chair of the Economic Sub Group

Gillian Coghill re-elected as Chair of the Site Remediation Sub Group

DSG Public meeting

Bob Earnshaw has stood down due to ill-health.

Professor Ray Kemp has now completed an independent review of DSG – how it works, thoughts of members etc, and has published findings. Generally working well but with some recommendations for improvements.

Iain Lyall presented an overview of the Shaft and Silo retrieval project, though could not provide any detail at all in terms of schedule (expected end of design/start of commissioning/start of operations/end of operations).

Vulcan – Wendy Newton has been replaced. MOD have put their tender exercise to complete site decommissioning “on hold” and now say that running both Dounreay and Vulcan decommissioning under NDA is a “credible option”.

Site Remediation Sub Group

I was unable to attend the 27 April meeting and no-one else from CWCC was available. I am still to see any minutes.

I had a face-to-face meeting with Gillian Coghill (SRSG chair) in early April. We discussed my continued concerns over Dounreay wanting to dispose of several tonnes of very long-lived U and Pu nuclides to their LLW facility which has a life somewhere between 1000 and 10000 years (significantly less than the nuclide half-lives). I don't believe that in this day and age we should simply accept disposal into a facility which we know will breach and leak nuclides into the environment, despite the fact that it is well past all of our lifetimes. It appears that this still hasn't been discussed properly and I hope to have a discussion in the next few weeks with Gillian and Dounreay staff regarding my concerns (which I believe are our longer-term community concerns). I have already raised these concerns with SEPA.

Other

Face to face discussion between DSG and Maree Todd is scheduled for 1400 on Monday in the Pentland Hotel.

Next DSG meeting is scheduled for 8th June 2022

Next SRSG is scheduled for 20th July 2022

10. Association of Community Councils' Update

No Report available.

11. Community Shop

Sandy Anderson had been contacted to carry out a feasibility study and business plan to try and find a way forward for the shop. A funding bid had been submitted to Bailey Wind Farm but had been unsuccessful. Another bid was being submitted to Awards for All Scotland. It was thought that Reay Shop was not a viable choice for a future shop and Pat would ask Sandy not to pursue it. David suggested he could approach the owners of Westfield Shop to see if they were interested in starting another shop in Reay

12. AOB

The road through Reay has been improved with the Council resurfacing most of it this week.

Heather has received the remaining funding, for the reduce speed signs, from Caithness and North Sutherland Fund. She has contacted

the Roads Department about purchasing the signs.

She has also reported again that the 20mph signs at the school need to be fixed.

Chris Bain has said that the Hall Committee are looking at trying to improve the old football pitch.

The Hall Committee have called a meeting with Donald Forbes (Reay Youth Club) and the Hall users about proposed basketball stands. The CWCC have submitted a letter stating that they oppose permanent stands being erected in the hall as other users might be adversely affected.

13. Date of Next meeting

Tuesday 19th July 2022, at 7.30pm in Reay Hall

Actions

Jillian to contact Jamie about the cutting of the grass in the Old Cemetery

David to contact shop at Bridge of Westfield to ask about starting one in Reay.

David to find out about the progress being made to limit speeding at Forss.

Pat to contact Sandy Anderson about not including the old Reay Shop in his study.

Pat to contact Struan regarding his Actions from previous meeting

Meeting closed at 9.00pm