26th September 2022

Elgol Village Hall

First meeting in 2 years and 7 months!!

minutes

Present:

Hermione Lamond, Hamish Fraser, Alistair Macpherson, Darach Hynd, David O Donnell, Paul Matthews, John Finlayson, Norma Morrison, Mairi Henderson, Alistair Mackinnon, Alistair Watt

Hamish welcomed all

Paul Mathews and David O Donnell approved the minutes of the previous meeting.

Matters arising

Community report given by NM covering:

* Foodbank – increase in demand
* Community Fridge – very little food
* Energy poverty – 2 families without electric due to lack of funds. Highlighted with MSPs, HC
* Broadford and Elgol Toilets – Elgol hopefully finished soon.
* Elgol path in for planning permission

JMT representative present and he felt that the camping situation not as bad as expected – mainland suffers most.

* Outdoor access code doesn’t apply to electric ???
* JMT and Torrin community are welcoming to the campervans – fire pits / rings are a problem.
* JMT will look at re-turfing and having a controlled area.
* JMT Ranger said that engagement with visitors have been very positive.

HC Update

* Tough times.
* Expecting covid rise over the winter.
* 10 million overspend.
* 41 million budget gap.
* 3.5million to provide non-recurring living support coming out of reserves.
* Monday – Friday free school meals for children in the Easter holidays again from reserves.
* Council not immune from financial pressures.
* HC need to target where they spend.
* Local government will have more autonomy over how they spend rather than be dictated by Scottish Government.
* Teacher strike action might be likely over the winter.
* Broadford Primary is still in a strong position as part of the Learning Estate and Learning Programme

Discussions about Elgol school

* Currently mothballed however children coming through in the future.
* The expectation from HC is that the Elgol school will reopen in the future. Need to keep people in the village.
* Community keen to keep the school warm and maintained.
* HC would be keen to work with the JMT to support using the school.
* Grass needs cut and damage to the fence – AW to email John Finlayson.
* Church now moved into the hall.
* 20 – 30 year olds here but not knowing if the school will open is an issue.
* JMT undertaking extensive consultation on their land at Strathaird. JMT need premises and might be keen to use the Elgol school as offices. *Might need to have presence in Strathaird though.*
* Community Council would like to see the school opened again in the future and the CC will write to the JMT to express their hope that they will support the community in looking after the school while mothballed.
* Similar situation in Struan – windfarm money supporting to keep the school open.

South Skye Community Hub

* Impact Hub working on business plan
* Looking for funding for the project – working with the HC on this
* HC capital plan to be looked at however confident that Broadford Primary will go ahead as funded through the Scottish Government Learning Estates and Investment Fund.

Elgol community

* Housing an issue
* Short term licensing – 20 houses in the Elgol catchment area used periodically, 30 Short Term Lets (6 owned locally others are owned from out with the area).
* 53% occupancy in Elgol catchment area
* Allocation model for Skye discussions
* JF reported that 80 people currently on the homeless list and all have Skye connections

Cemetery

* Elgol Cemetery – cows have been in. Gate needs replaced. HF to email Kevin Gordon about this.
* Kilchrist Cemetery – grass needs cut.

Transport meeting date regarding bridges, speed limits – *they want to know what is on our agenda.*

* Date needs set for end of October – HF to contact.

Skye Cycle Way

* Will go from Kyle to pier in Uig eventually.
* First section is going well and includes the bridges.
* Need for pedestrian markings will cease.

Helipad update:

* Boyd Robertson is looking into it.

AGM date to be set.

AOB

* PM said that flashing speed sign in Broadford is not working.
* Elgol would like a bottle bank – HL to email John about it.