

**Minutes of 9th January 2023 meeting**

**UHI West Highland - Broadford**

**Present:**

Hamish Fraser, Alistair Macpherson, Darach Hynd, David O Donnell, Norma Morrison, Joan Robertson, John Finlayson, Paul Mathews

**Apologies:**

Liz Whyte

Hamish welcomed all to the meeting.

Alistair Macpherson proposed and David O Donnell seconded the minutes of the previous meeting

A correction required for the minutes of the AGM meeting was noted.

**Community Update:**

• community company invited to apply for funding for warm hubs.

• looking for someone to get training with CAB to help at warm hubs.

• thanks to Muirhall Energy for funding the warm hub so far.

• possibility of 4 warm hubs in the local area - the selkie collective provide a warm hub for women.

• a concern was expressed that the Co-Op may seek to reduce the amount of waste and hence the food provided to the community fridge, but assurance was given that this would not be the case.

• while still having 18 boxes, there was 25% less food on Christmas eve this year compared to last year.

• Members expressed their concern about the lack of contribution to the community by Tesco and the other supermarkets that deliver to this area.

• an expression of gratitude to the coop is to be tabled - they offered to fund the colleges free breakfast when the program ended and do much for the community.

**Highland Council update:**

• a £40 million budget gap is being forecast at present.

• while being kept to a minimum, redundancies are possible.

• New chief executive to be in place in February.

• acknowledged that teachers have had a 23% pay raise over the past 5-6 years but industrial action continues.

• concerns were expressed that the council may have to pick up teacher’s additional pay.

**New School Update**:

• capital program being reviewed- hard decisions to be made as among other pressures construction costs are increasing rapidly.

• the new school is part of the Scottish government's LEAP 2 program so mood is still hopeful.

• the start of construction works still a time off – the ground works will start once the planning application is approved and the capital program reviewed.

• concerns were raised about the certainty of the community hub.

• Additional funding is required for this from sports Scotland.

• Hamish to write to John Finlayson asking for clear commitments from funders, namely the HC and Sports Scotland.

• the possibility of the astro pitch being put in place before the school was raised and may be feasible.

**Toilets Update:**

• some groundworks need to be carried out in Elgol.

• Elgol toilets are due to be finished on the 2nd of March.

• the problems that were being had in Broadford have been sorted out.

• it is hoped to get the toilets finished ASAP.

• the funding for the additional comfort schemes of £200 per month is due to be stopping.

**Hospital site community interest**:

• the goal is for HC, the NHS and the community to work together to benefit the NHS.

• old hospital not safe to use for any other purpose at the moment.

• the campaign for the new Hospital was discussed as an example of the will of the community to meet their needs when government bodies fall short.

• there is an existing coalition between the NHS and the housing association - 10 houses between Broadford and Kyle for the use of the NHS.

**Transport Scotland meeting:**

• following the concerns raised at the meeting the side drains on the A87 were cleared promptly.

• the new speed limit signs at Breakish are having little impact on minor accidents on the bridge.

• Hamish to respond to Fraser Struthers in terms of the lack of pavement gritting.

• the strategic placement of grit bins to was suggested as being of help to the community.

**Planning:**

The plan for the path to the clay pools is in abeyance at the moment.

Possible formation of small paths group.

New path proposed from the toilets in Elgol to the pier area.

**Accounts:**

Investigation needed to clarify a payment to the Broadford hall - some confusion being raised by the hall keeper.

**AOCB:**

• a meeting with Kate Earnshaw will be convened in the future.

• after final discussion it was decided that Willie Macdonald is to be disqualified as a member of the Community Council under section 11 of the scheme of establishment. Hamish to write and inform Willie of our decision.

• Norma to be leaving Broadford primary parent council this year- new members should be recruited to provide valuable link with parent council.

• Norma is to speak to the parent council.

• hopeful to have new youth member and we have one interested candidate.

**Christmas lights:**

• the lights for the tree were vandalised, but it is still hoped to get a year or two out of them.

• the usefulness of the bridge light for vision when crossing was brought up and the hope is to continue to have lights in this location.

• It was suggested that we email co-op community fund seeking help with funding new lights and or old folk’s lunch.

• the community is aware of an increase in crime and drug abuse, in the Broadford area and a few problem offenders.

• possibility of consultation with Thurso/Wick - successful in tackling the drugs issue

**Date of next meeting:**

There was a suggestion to change meetings to every 6 weeks.

Should any important matters arise, between meeting dates, these could be held online.

Next meeting 20th February, followed by 27th March, 8th May and 19th June.