



# **BROADFORD & STRATH COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes 11 March 2024**

**7.30PM, UHI North, West & Hebrides - Broadford**

Present Alistair Macpherson, David O'Donnell, Paul Matthews, Hamish Fraser, Skye Deans, Rhona Coogan (Chair), Nick Ferguson, John Finlayson (CIr)

John Kane, Anne MacLennan, Dave Mockett (Police Officer)

Apologies Norma Morrison (BSCC), Den Connell

Welcome from Rhona.

## **Approval of Minutes**

February: proposed by Paul, Seconded by Nick

## **Matters Arising**

Broadford & Strath Community Company (BSCC) have accepted our offer of Associated Membership to the Community Council.

Lochalsh & Skye Housing Association (LSHA) have agreed to attend our April meeting to discuss the housing situation in the Broadford & Strath area.

Rhona has spoken to Tom Eveling regarding litter from Siaway in the community garden and on the shore. Tom sends his apologies and asks for patience as he works with his staff to resolve the issue.

Lime Park landscaping – Rhona has been in touch with Fiona Mandeville about this and feeling hopeful that a group can be formed to continue work on the project.

Alistair – many thanks to Den, David and Paul who helped with taking down the cable for the Christmas tree in the community garden.

## **Police**

Police predicting a busy Easter weekend at the end of the month. Seeing a rise in visitors already - lots of rental vehicles around. Speed checks being done regularly by the primary school in Broadford. The new 20mph limit seems to be slowing drivers down.

Vandalism at the Broadford public toilets. The ASDA CCTV cameras need checking. PC Mockett will email the Kyle sergeants to see if any more on this.

Hamish – it would be good to have a 20mph reminder coming out of the petrol station/co-op. Helpful for locals who are used to the area being a 30mph. A reminder would be good coming out of the housing area, Glen Road / Rathad a'Ghlinne. This will be brought to Transport Scotland.

Thank you to Police Officer David Mockett for attending tonight's meeting.

## **Highland Council Update – John Finlayson**

Summary attached to this Minute.

Other points:

Kate Forbes and John had a meeting with new community trust in Elgol last Friday. They are liaising with LSHA about housing matters. LSHA's Chief Executive Neil Clapperton has left. Alistair MacGregor is the new interim Chief Executive.

Due to HC restructuring, the Ward Manager jobs have been replaced with Community Support Officers. Willie Mackinnon will still be our point of contact for the Community Council.

Hamish – is Broadford Primary School still on track? John F – it's on the capital programme so it will go ahead.

General discussion on housing - HC will consider buying houses that are for sale, though private sales may get a higher price. LSHA make housing available to NHS Highland. NHS Highland need to come forward. Committee feel that we should invite NHS representatives to a future meeting. Rhona – An invitation to NHS representative for our May meeting to go out to discuss this issue.

### **John Kane – Private Landlord**

John Kane, a private landlord with a history of renting to NHS staff since 2002, has purchased a property in Breakish with plans to establish a House of Multiple Occupancy (HMO) for NHS staff working at Broadford hospital. He aims to have rooms available within six weeks, prioritizing NHS staff but open to other professionals such as care workers, firemen, and police if NHS uptake is slow. He does not intend to rent to students. John has contacted the NHS, currently awaiting a response, and typically finds tenants through word of mouth.

Hamish emphasises the importance of long-term staffing at the hospital, highlighting the expense of temporary posts. John explains that HMO lets are beneficial for hospital doctors on rotation, often on placements of 6-24 months, as they provide ready-made accommodation.

Rhona enquires about short-term tourist lets, but John clarifies that the property will not be available for such use, with tenants typically staying for around 12 months. Councillor Finlayson sees the initiative as a potential valuable service for those relocating for work, offering a new option not previously available on Skye. John commits to keeping the Community Council updated on progress. Rhona extends thanks to John for his attendance.

### **Anne MacLennan – Healthy Homes Skye Raasay & Lochalsh**

Anne MacLennan from Healthy Homes Skye Raasay & Lochalsh updated the council on the project, which began 18 months ago with joint efforts from Donnie Mackay of LSHA and James Wilson, experienced in sustainable housing practices. A household survey conducted last year highlighted issues such as cold, draughty, and mouldy homes, with 426 houses surveyed. Respondents reported adverse health effects due to poor home conditions. The main challenges identified were cost and lack of knowledge on what actions to take. Recommendations included organising an online conference and forming a project team to establish a local retrofit service with a dedicated development officer. Demonstrations and DIY learning opportunities are planned, potentially with an accreditation system. Premises for demonstration renovations, including old toilets in Broadford and damp council homes opposite the Dunollie Hotel, were discussed. Collaboration with Raasay, particularly with Rosie MacInnes from Carbon Neutral Islands Raasay, was noted. Local materials like wool for insulation were suggested for better utilization. The Healthy Homes report will be shared on the Community Council website. Concerns were raised about the high cost of retrofitting

compared to building new, highlighting the need to reduce retrofitting costs. Rhona thanked Anne for her attendance at the meeting.

### **Path updates – Norma at BSCC**

#### **Pier path:**

Scottish Water have repaired the storm damage to the Pier Path - thanks to James Macinnes, Scottish Water and Bridget Thomas, Outdoor Access Officer

#### **Sea wall damage (opposite Selkie Collective):**

John Mackinnon will be carrying out repairs to the damaged sea wall which is in danger of compromising the active travel path. This is being funded and facilitated via Highland Council (HITRANS funding) and will be carried out within the next few months. Thanks to Bridget for her support with this.

#### **Bus stop to UHI path:**

John Mackinnon will carry out drainage and surface improvements on this active travel path. This is being funded and facilitated via Highland Council (HITRANS funding) and will be carried out within the next few months. Thanks to Bridget for her support with this.

#### **Forest Path - Forestry Land Scotland owned**

FLS are going to be carrying out drainage and surface work on the FLS owned path in the next few months. I reiterated the issues that the Disabled Ramblers are having with the surface on the incline and FLS are aware of this.

#### **Forest Path - Community owned**

FLS are going to carry out drainage work on the community path and are discussing supporting with the surface work. This was an agreement made prior to the tree harvesting. Hoping for a positive update on the surface work imminently. Sandra Reid has been extremely helpful with the ongoing discussions.

#### **Path Feasibility Study:**

Community Regeneration Funding (matched with Paths For All) has been successful and we are waiting for offer documents. Hope to get started in the new financial year.

Project Summary:

**Our aim is to establish a coherent, safe and attractive environment for walking, wheeling and cycling across the Broadford and Strath Community Council area. In the first instance we wish to engage a consultant to undertake a feasibility study of our current path network and look at potential path links that will enable this to happen. The work will include community consultation, surveys, mapping, identifying funding sources, and a final report setting out priorities. Evidence in the report would be used for future funding bids to support path construction and maintenance.**

### **South Skye Community Campus**

David – brief update from South Skye Community Campus SCIO (SSCC)

SFA application has been drafted. The applications are currently paused but application will go in as soon as they re-open.

Planning in principle for astro turf to be submitted by South Skye Community Campus SCIO. They will run by Dorothy Gibb.

Director training to be carried out by Skye & Lochalsh council for Voluntary Organisations (SLCVO).

SSCC are continuing their membership drive. At the last SSCC meeting there were 197 ordinary and junior members. Looking to get more residents from the 3 South Skye community council areas to sign up for membership to register support for the project.

Broadford Youth Club kids fundraising have donated £500 to SSCC.

Thanks to HC for support with the ground studies. Shared archaeological survey which covered the South Skye Community Campus lease area will save the community money.

David – question - any updates on the new school? John F – the school is going ahead.

David has been asked to become a Trustee of SSCC. Members are unanimously satisfied with this.

New group representative sought to represent Community Council at SSCC board meetings. David proposes Paul. Seconded by Rhona and unanimously agreed by committee.

### **Primary School Stakeholders Meeting**

Upcoming meeting on 20 March 2024, 3PM online. Hamish and David to attend on behalf of Community Council. John F to chair the meeting.

### **Planning**

24/00698/FUL: Atlantic Salmon - The proposal seeks to modify the equipment, changing from 12 pens of 120m circumference, to 8 pens of 160m circumference.

Discussed. No objections noted.

### **Bank account / Treasurer**

David - All outstanding payments have been settled by Hermione. The only payment outstanding is the Senior Citizens figure. Hermione has discussed with Joan and the figure has been agreed. Hermione now awaiting an invoice to get this settled.

New bank forms to be completed as there was a problem with Signatories on the previously submitted ones. Rhona to ask Norma to co-sign as she is still a signatory. Hermione remains the only current Community Councillor with bank access until the matter is resolved.

### **AGM date**

Date moved to 20 May. AGM to take place first and then regular meeting taking place afterwards.

### **AOCB**

David - there is a hole in the road near Corry Lodge. It has deteriorated to the point where it might collapse. David has reported this to the Highland Council on 23 February 2024.

Query as to who owns that road. It could be privately owned. Rhona to contact Corry Lodge to bring to their attention in case they are not aware of the issue.

Rhona has been in touch with Fraser Struthers (Bear Scot) regarding the manhole cover by the footbridge in Broadford. He says this will be repaired.

Nick – just to note HC have started putting warning notice parking fines for pavement parking up at the Industrial Estate. Businesses there might be raising this with us soon.

David – reminder to Rhona to circulate the Skye Cycle Way documents from John Phillips from last meeting.

Paul – suggestion to appoint a Vice Chair. Paul proposes Hamish. Seconded by Skye. Hamish agrees.

Paul – there is dog mess on the pavements through the town. Is the committee happy if Paul contacts the Dog Warden on behalf of the Community Council to see if it is possible to remind dog-owners to clean up their dog mess. All agree.

Date of next meeting: Monday 15 April 2024