



BROADFORD & STRATH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

16 December 2024

UHI North, West & Hebrides – Broadford, 7.30PM

Members present: Den Connell, Rhona Coogan (Chair), David O'Donnell, Nick Ferguson, Paul Matthews, Alistair McPherson

Online: John Finlayson (Cllr), Hamish Fraser, Norma Morrison (BSCC)

Other: Carly Doherty (Broadford Primary School Parent Council), Maren Ebeling (SEN Transmission), Graham Sinclair (SEN Transmission)

Apologies: Skye Deans, Hermione Lamond

Welcome

Declarations of Interest

- None reported.

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from the last meeting (18 Nov) approved; proposed by Paul, seconded by Nick.

Matters Arising

- **Broadford Car Park:** Nick assessed damaged walls and found repairs to be more extensive than expected. A quote will be prepared for the work.
- **Wreath Payment:** £33.20 to Alistair for wreath. David to write invoice and make payment.
- **Elgol Road repairs:** response from Mackenzie Sutherland (THC) via Hermione:

We [Skye Roads Team] had been focusing on capital works – larger schemes – and then crashed, with a bump into winter duties. I have 2 hot boxes arriving so we can hit it really hard over the following weeks (both pre and after Christmas), they arrived last Friday. These works (hot tar repairs) are to hold the roads until they can be picked up in the coming year/s capital works. In short we cannot attend to everything all at once. I drive all the roads as often as I can and I completely agree that there are sections of this road that are truly awful, as they are in other areas on the island, and the wider Highland Council. I assure you that I will do all I can to attend to your issues as soon as I can.

SSEN Transmission Update

- **Broadford Worker's Camp:** The planning application has been submitted, but not yet visible on the portal. Graham Sinclair is now our point of contact for the Worker's Camp. Concerns raised about the lack of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), though assurances SSEN/GE will conduct one of their own. JF suggests emailing Dafydd Jones (Head of Planning THC) to ask for clarification on the issue. Rhona to follow up.
- **Community Liaison Groups (CLGs):** SSEN need approval on OHL before construction can begin. Two Community Liaison Groups (CLGs) suggested for Skye, one for the North and one for the South. A separate CLG is requested for the Broadford Substation to address both construction issues and ongoing issues, e.g. noise pollution.
- **Community Benefit Fund (CBF):** Discussions about funding for local projects. Some funding to be awarded January 2025. SSEN and Balfour Beattie aware of and supportive of SSCC SCIO's ambitions. No fund yet set for Skye & Glenelg area. Comparison to the East coast where £252K lifetime fund made available, £5K maximum bid p/ project. Maren & Graham leave meeting.

Membership

- **Broadford Primary School Parent Council:** Accepted Associate Membership. Our future meeting dates to be sent to PC via Carly Doherty.
- **Youth Membership:** Efforts to recruit a youth member for the January meeting. David to remind Roddy.
- **Sleat CC:** we have accepted Associate Membership of Sleat CC.
- All in agreement that our minutes to be circulated to Assoc. Members (Broadford Primary School Parent Council, Broadford & Strath Community Company)

SSCC SCIO

- BVH Transfer: Residents voted to transfer the Broadford Village Hall (BVH) to the South Skye Community Council SCIO. The hall's legal ownership will move to SSCC SCIO to safeguard its future use.
- Keeping Angus Macdonald MP up to date with progress of project.
- Awaiting news on funding in January 2025.
- Next meeting: 6 Jan 2025.

Skye & Raasay Community Benefit Fund

- David attended recent meeting run by Highland & Islands Climate Hub, HIE, Burgess Paul, Local Energy Scotland exploring options for creating an organisation to distribute CBF to Skye & Raasay wide area.
- Discussions included shared ownership and ensuring a Skye-wide benefit from the fund.
- A lack of all representatives present, compared with meeting in January 2024.
- They would like steering group to be created by February 2025.
- Concerns from members that CC not in itself a suitable member but majority of members agree to continue representation to help to form a steering group.
- Brief for the steering group to be circulated by David, along with recording of the meeting.

Christmas Lights Update

- Issues with the electricity supply for Christmas lights; Bear Transport agreed to reconnect power but may not be ready before Christmas. Hamish to follow up.
- Plans for two Christmas trees to be erected. Best day (weather-wise) would be Thurs 19 December 2024. Volunteers needed to help with tree installation. Alistair, Nick and David to take the lead.
- If cable from public toilets, Norma requests qualified electrician to undertake any work. Solar lights could be an additional purchase for next year.
- Brief discussion of permanent tree being erected, though difficult to put lights on. Alistair has suggestion of suitable location. To be followed up in new year.

War Memorial

- David emailed JF 2 Dec. John Maclean to speak with Kevin, local foreman re. stair access, drainage and overgrowth of bushes.

- Follow-up on maintenance / access improvements in the new year.

Planning

- **Campbell's Farm Development:** 6 new houses.
- **Kero Development:** Recent Public Consultation (2nd). Concerns raised about road access and parking for the new development affecting hospital access. Rhona to feedback to Robin Keane.

Banking

- A new bank account is needed after exhaustion changing signatories with BOS. RBS are a potential option, but conditions require an existing customer.
- Whist donation for Christmas decorations. £243 received from Seonaid Nicolson. Paul has this kept safely until depositing. Thanks noted to the Whist group. It has now been 30 years that they have been fund-raising. Rhona to contact WHFP to see if they'll run a story.

AOCB

- **First Aid Course:** Revealed some defibrillator pads were out of date; David informed Nicholas. Norma – all defibs will need to be checked.
- **Path Advisory Committee:** Meeting 9 or 16 January 2025. Alistair to represent CC.
- **Helipad/Old Hospital:** Awaiting feasibility study from NHS Highland. Ongoing discussions about the importance of community ownership of the old hospital site. BSCC have EOI in two sites near hospital, and Broadford Woodland North, potentially suitable for Helipad. Kate Forbes office updated of recent tragic fatal accident, which blocked A87 for long period, and made access to Airstrip difficult.
- **Police Involvement:** Request made for police attendance at a 2025 meeting.

Next Meeting

- Scheduled for **20 January 2025**.