

BRORA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday 19 May, 2020
Conducted with online platform - Zoom

Chair:- Russell Rekhy

Attendees:- Russell Rekhy, Sandy Crawford (Secy), Margaret Mackintosh (Treasurer), Diana Royce, Ruwan Uduwera-Perera, Cllr Deirdre Mackay, Louise Mackay (Minute Secy).

Apologies:- Dave Andrews

	Item	Action	Responsible member	Review Date
1	<u>Welcome</u> Chair Russell Rekhy welcomed all those in attendance via Zoom.			
2	<u>Police Update</u> Sandy contacted two police officers prior to the meeting for their report but had no response. Cllr Mackay said she would bring this matter to the attention of the Area Commander.	Cllr Mackay		
3	<u>Minutes of Last Meeting</u> Item 9 – Diana asked that the minutes be amended to reflect that it was the water pipe she suggested be closed off until repairs were made, not the Glen Loth road. This was agreed. The minutes were then accepted on the proposal of Ruwan and seconded by Sandy.			
4	<u>Matters Arising</u> None.			
5	<u>Reports</u> a. <i>Local Councillors:</i> Cllr Mackay reported planning is being done for recovery re digital connectivity, tourism, food industry etc.			

BRORA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Food Resilience Group, chaired by Cllr Mackay, meets every two weeks and local communities are working very well together to meet local needs. The group are also looking at what will be needed over the next 12-18 months re food poverty. There is a concern of dependency becoming a problem. The group are aware of this and taking steps to avoid it, one example is to look at community projects that promote home cooking.

Cllr Mackay, along with councillors from Sutherland and Caithness, is having weekly briefing meetings with Chief Executive of HC. The situation regarding finance is poor due to loss of income and increasing costs. A Recovery Board has been set up to formulate an economic recovery plan.

The recycling centre in Brora will re-open on 1 June with traffic and people management plans in place. Initially it will be limited to garden and light waste.

Cllr Mackay has received questions about a reduction in council tax bills due to the pandemic restrictions. Cllr Mackay stressed that there will be no reduction in the council tax bill but strongly encouraged anyone who is struggling financially to get in touch with HC and discuss options.

Grass cutting has started again but on a limited level due to reduced resources. Local groups/volunteers have offered to help and this is greatly appreciated. Cllr Mackay suggests that those wishing to volunteer with grass cutting in their local area to get in touch with John Mackay, HC Amenity Services Manager (North).

BRORA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

	<p>Cllr Mackay has had no reports of any problems with HC staff not receiving PPE.</p> <p>There has been no problem with food deliveries by community hub. Cllr Mackay thanked the community for the way that everyone has worked together and that it is important to continue to harness the volunteer effort locally once the pandemic crisis is over.</p> <p>NHS Highland are sending statistics every day to Cllr Mackay. The area covered by NHS Highland is different than the local authority area and covers Wick to Argyll. Most recent figures show that diagnoses have stabilised at approx. 325, there are currently 6 patients receiving hospital care and less than 5 patients in Intensive Care.</p> <p>Cllr Mackay and Russell have received representations from local people regarding the former Clydesdale Bank car park. The new tenants of the building have closed the carpark to public use by installing gates and erecting bollards and chains. This has resulted in difficulty for disabled people to access the ATM as the ramp can only be accessed from the car park. Cllr Mackay and Russell have both received confirmation that the new occupant's lease also covers the car park, so it can be classed as a private car park. The agents who deal with Clydesdale Bank property, Cushman & Wakefield, informed Russell that the new tenants had been asked to give access to the ATM. Current provisions do not appear to be sufficient for people with mobility issues and the CC have been asked to provide</p>	Cllr Mackay Russell		
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BRORA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

	<p>measurements to the agents. Cllr Mackay said that it would be a reasonable request to the new tenants that access to the disabled parking bay be made available to members of the public. Members of the CC are concerned that the ATM will be removed from the former bank building due to lack of use. Russell will speak to agents to find out who deals with the ATM and Cllr Mackay said she will contact them to discuss the situation. At the time of the meeting the ATM was not working. Ruwan suggested that HC planning department be contacted as they might be able to clarify with new tenants about reasonable access to disabled parking and ATM. Cllr Mackay said she would contact HC and the Highland Access Panel.</p> <hr/> <p>Diana asked Cllr Mackay for an update on care homes and how this area is managing the implications of the virus pandemic. Cllr Mackay replied that NHS care homes in our area were quarantined very early on and all staff are wearing scrubs and PPE. Visiting stopped very quickly but arrangements have been made for contact through Facetime etc. Cllr Mackay said that moving staff between facilities may not be best practice and also questions why care home staff were not tested from day. Questions must be asked so that good practice may result from failings. As further information becomes available Cllr Mackay will circulate to members.</p> <hr/> <p>Russell asked if the Golspie Community Hub is still going ahead? Cllr Mackay said it was but in an adapted way.</p>	Cllr Mackay		
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BRORA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

	<p>b. <u>Community Council sub-groups:</u> Sandy said that nothing was happening with the Resilience Group as they did not take on the pandemic response. He did say that the Resilience Volunteers are working like clockwork. Washable masks have been made by volunteers and are being distributed to every household in the community.</p> <p>c. <u>A N Other(s):</u> Poppy Collections will probably continue but it is unknown how it will proceed.</p>			
<p>6</p>	<p>Correspondence Bernard Doherty-Davis informed the CC of concerns expressed over the speed of traffic on the Gordonbush road by windfarm contractors. Ruwan informed the CC that SSE have also started work on pylons in the area and there has been concerns with low flying helicopters over cattle. Russell said he will speak to the Liaison Group about the concerns raised.</p> <hr/> <p>RES have indicated they are willing to visit the CC when it is safe to do so regarding the Kintradwell Windfarm application.</p> <hr/> <p>The CC are still waiting for a response from Malcolm Macleod, HC Planning Dept, regarding the Glen Loth Hydro Scheme.</p>	<p>Russell</p>		
<p>7</p>	<p>Treasurer's Report Margaret circulated the report to members prior to the meeting. The report was accepted by all present.</p>			
<p>8</p>	<p>Community Feedback The community Resilience Volunteers have reported that feedback from the community over the facemasks and volunteer duties has been very positive.</p>			
<p>9</p>	<p>Planning issues None</p>			

BRORA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

<p>1 0</p>	<p>AOCB</p> <p>Diana asked that Sandy go back to RES and ask them to respond to questions regarding the Kintradwell Windfarm.</p> <hr/> <p>There are reports that B&B facilities are still taking available for bookings at the moment online. Cllr Mackay confirmed that matters regarding accommodation should be reported to the Environmental Health Dept of HC and anything regarding travel is a police matter.</p>	<p>Sandy</p>		
<p>1 1</p>	<p>Date, time and venue of next meeting</p> <p>Tuesday 21 July at 7pm. Venue to be confirmed.</p> <p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.05pm.</p>			