

**BRORA COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Tuesday 14 July, 2020**

*Conducted via online platform – Zoom*

**Chair:- Russell Rekhy**

**Attendees:- Russell Rekhy, Sandy Crawford (Secy), Diana Royce, Margaret Mackintosh, Cllr Deirdre Mackay, Louise Mackay (minute secy)**

**Apologies:- none received.**

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible member</b>	<b>Review Date</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome and apologies</b> Russell Rekhy welcomed everyone to the second meeting held via the Zoom platform. It was agreed by all present that the meeting be recorded and shared only with CC and minute secretary.			
<b>2</b>	<b>Police Update</b> Sandy had received an update from the local police and circulated it to the community councillors. Cllr Mackay reported that officers had dealt with Covid-19 lockdown breaches in a low key manner, as directed by the Scottish Government, and were encouraging people to conform to the regulations.			
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes of last meeting</b> Sandy noted that the date recorded for the next meeting was incorrect. Cllr Mackay wished it recorded that she thought was an excellent meeting in terms of using new technology and that it was an excellent minute. The minutes were accepted on the proposal of Diana Royce and seconded by Sandy.			

**BRORA COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Matters Arising</b> Cllr Mackay has spoken with Andy Davidson of the local Access Forum who has advised that 2m is required to allow for the wheelchair user and person to assist the wheelchair user access the ATM. Russell said he will report this information to the landlords, Cushman and Wakefield.</p>			
	<p>SSE have asked the CC to keep them informed of any specific instances of speeding on the Gordonbush road. Russell said he had not been made aware of any further problems. Margaret Mackintosh reported that there is very heavy traffic on the road heading back to Brora at the end of the working day, with many vehicles travelling in convoy. Sandy said that he had seen a fully laden RJ Macleod lorry heading towards Gordonbush but had not received any notification from SSE about this transport. Margaret suggested that this might be in relation to the pylon work also happening in this area.</p>			
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Reports</b> <b>Local Councillors</b> Cllr Mackay reported that a Tourism Charter had been drawn up by the Sutherland Community Partnership and will be distributed throughout the county.</p>			
	<p>School staff have been working hard to ensure that all pupils can return to full time education in August. Three different scenarios have been planned for.</p>			
	<p>The Brora skip site is working well and it is hoped to increase the types of items that can be disposed off there. The restrictions in place apply to all of Highland Region but Cllrs Mackay, Gale and McGillivray have written to HC asking that a Sutherland only approach be implemented.</p>			
	<p>Libraries will not open for a wee while yet as each library is different and need specific regulations in place.</p>			
	<p>The Brora Hub hopes to re-open at the end of August and plans are in hand to facilitate this.</p>			

**BRORA COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

	<p>Russell asked Cllr Mackay how the HC’s post Covid recovery plan was progressing. Cllr Mackay said that the board is very pro-active and meeting weekly. HC are looking at building use with so many employees currently working from home and happy to continue to do this when appropriate. It may be that some buildings are no longer required. There is a broad financial margin to work in at present as no word has been received as yet regarding financial help from the Scottish government.</p>			
	<p><b>Community Council Sub-groups</b> Nothing to report.</p>			
	<p><b>A N Others</b> Nothing to report</p>			
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Correspondence</b> Email received from Scottish Water re the outfall pipe. Gavin Steele has been in touch to say that they are aware of the problem, signage is now in place and they are working on a solution. The next inspection will be at low tide on 22 July.</p>			
	<p>Kathleen Cunningham has written to the CC bringing up several points. <i>Poppy Collection</i>: the CC are waiting for further guidance from Gordon Michie on carrying out the door to door poppy collection in October. Concerns were expressed that this might not be possible in the current circumstances but more will be known when Mr Michie reports back on 28 July. <i>Annual financial reports</i>: Margaret said that she has not received a copy of the audited accounts from last session as yet. It was agreed to look into when the AGM is due to take place and work to having the accounts finalised by then. Russell said that due to the CC elections last year and the current situation that some flexibility is being allowed at present. <i>Community Award</i>: The award had not been presented last year and Kathleen suggested that it be made to the resilience volunteers this year. All were in agreement.</p>			
	<p>It was agreed that the other items brought to the CC’s attention by Kathleen could be dealt with at a future meeting and it was agreed that the CC would try to relieve Kathleen, if she wishes,</p>			

**BRORA COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

	of the community matters that she has been dealing with for many years.			
<b>7</b>	<b>Micro Grant request</b> Russell said this matter would be heard in private after the meeting was concluded.			
<b>8</b>	<b>Treasurer's Report</b> Margaret supplied details of all the micro grants dealt with and the CC are to receive £4000 from the Kilbraur Community Windfarm Trust. Margaret also supplied the CC with the latest financial report. This was accepted by all present. Margaret queried if there was any further expenses expected in the Covid response effort. Russell said that this was paid for by funding from HIE Sustainable fund and that he would circulate a breakdown of expenditure. The £1000 received from SSE was a post Covid fund that Russell wishes to use to help people access technology in the community. It was agreed that this money be ringfenced. Cllr Mackay said she was working on a similar project with the Duchess of Westminster Trust and suggested that the relevant groups work together. This was agreed by all present. SSE are also awarding a further £5589 to the Brora CC to help with the Covid Pandemic aftermath.			
<b>9</b>	<b>Community Feedback</b> Sandy said that everyone has been delighted with the work of the Resilience volunteers and that the community had come together in a positive way. Cllr Mackay said that the Tourism Charter should help alleviate worries regarding tourism activities starting again.			
<b>10</b>	<b>Planning Issues</b> Sandy reported that there had been no recent emails from the HC Planning Dept.			
	Glen Loth Hydro Scheme: no further word has been received from HC regarding this despite being written to in January. Cllr Mackay suggested that the CC contact area planning manager, Dafydd Jones, directly.			

**BRORA COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

<b>11</b>	<b>AOCB</b> It was proposed to implement a Micro Grant Application Form. Margaret said that she thought this would work well for Brora. It was agreed to proceed by all present.			
<b>12</b>	<b>Date, time and venue of next meeting</b> Tuesday 15 September at 7pm, venue to be confirmed. There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8pm.			