

# Halkirk District Community Council

Minutes of HDCC meeting held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 held in Ross Institute, Halkirk at 730pm

PRESENT: Chairman Stuart Mills, Dave Busby, Linda Levack, Katrine Coghill, Declan Gunn, Apologies:, Cllr Ron Gunn – HC, Cllr Struan Mackie, Nicola Campbell, Laura Coghill

## 1. Welcome

Vice Chairman Stuart Mills welcomed everyone to the meeting. Stuart reported that Peter Blackwood had passed on his resignation as Treasurer due to ill health and would resign immediately. Stuart will write to Peter Blackwood to thank him for all his efforts over the years to the Halkirk District Community Council.

Moving forward, Chairman Stuart Mills and Secretary Katrine Coghill will oversee the accounts until a new Treasurer is appointed. All members were asked to think of new members within the Community with a view to appointing a new Treasurer at the AGM to be held before end June.

## 2. Community Safety Report

A report had been received from Police Scotland with no real concerns except they have highlighted the reports of vandalism within the area which they are continuing to investigate.

Total Calls 32 Calls (4 Crimes / 28 Non crimes)

It was noted that continued use of mobile phones is still ongoing in the area and also some awareness of poaching reported around the windfarm area but no concerns to be reported to Police Scotland.

## 3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Linda Levack; Seconded: Dave Busby

## 4. Matters Arising from these Minutes

- Secretary contacted HC re funding for this year's Village Officer. COMPLETE
- Cllr Ron Gunn to try to find out more about Timber Strategic Fund – ONGOING
- Chairman Stuart Mills to write to HC planning on noise pollution – ONGOING
- Chairman Stuart Mills to get further information on Ulbster/EV charging proposal. COMPLETE
- Secretary to send Terms of Reference and any CC links to Declan Gunn – COMPLETE

## 5. Treasurer's Report

Following resignation of Peter Blackwood's resignation, Chairman and Secretary have written to Bank to amend signatories for cheques.

- Cheque for £250 to be sent to Spittal Hall
- £3000 top up in from Achlachan Fund.

Cheques Awaiting Payment:

Mr Jim Sudd – Defibrilators - £114.56

Mrs Katrine Coghill – DATA PROTECTION - £40 (paid before penalty was applied)

Achlachan Micro Grant – Scotsclader Hall for Blether and Bite - £300 plus £180 agreed

## 6. Village Warden's Report

Due to start in May - Awaiting funding amount to come in from Highland Council.

All agreed to continue with Marie Hickling as Village Officer as previous year and Secretary to contact Marie to agree a starting date for this year. A few comments/suggestions on the area around the shop and this would be added to the List.

**Action: Secretary to contact Gardeners to begin work Village Officer work when funding comes through.**

## 7. Area Representatives Reports•

Forestry & SNH – Representative Linda Levack

- Wood lorries started again carting at Braehour.
- Strathmore & Altnabreak Long Term Forest Plan – correspondence on Consultation came in.

### • Roads

- Highland Council have started to use Gunns for repairing roads.
- Bridge at Scotsclader is in disastrous state.
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- **Action: Cllr Ron Gunn will try to find out more about the Timber Strategic Road Fund**

### • Dounreay Stakeholders

The minutes can be accessed from the Dounreay Stakeholder's Group website.

<http://www.dounreaystakeholdergroup.org/>

### • Health – Representative Nicola Campbell

- Resilience group emails contain updated information on services and useful links

### • Planning – Representative – Secretary

All emails from Planning are circulated weekly and any of interest picked out and brought to meeting. All planning applications can be accessed from the Highland.gov website.

Current applications – no objections raised.

West of Orkney Windfarm	Correspondence on pre application consultation <a href="http://www.westoforkney.com">www.westoforkney.com</a>
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### Proposal

The Old Church Westerdale Halkirk	Alterations (internal and external to bldg.
Mybster Farm, Watten, Wick,	Creation of pond
Station Cottage, Altnabreak, Halkirk	Erection of request to Stop Equipment inc. Prior Approval request for 1.975m height kiosk on platform, at Altnabreac Station
Former Factory, Sinclair Lane, Halkirk	Alterations and change of use from factory to storage units
Land to the east of the A9, approx. 500m south of Mybster Inn Farm	Planning application for the development of a 47mwh capacity battery energy storage facility

It was noted that external lighting on houses was becoming bigger and brighter which goes against light pollution and saving energy. **Action: Chairman Stuart Mills will draft a letter to HC Planning on light pollution in area. ONGOING**

## 8. Achlachan Microfund Applications

Top up of £3000 was put into funds.

- Scotsclalder Blether and Bite application for funding for their regular social event providing soup, sandwiches and cakes once a month on a Friday. The full cost to run this was £480 for the year. HDCC agreed to fund this, with £300 to be given now and second cheque will be sent for remainder later in the year.
- Outstanding cheque to be sent to Spittal Village Hall for broken xmas light - £250.

## 9. Correspondence

Stephen Mezals		SPA Community Confidence Action Research – event in Wick and online event on Policing	Link to consultation
Highland Council		Email from Mac on reminder of Community Councils Year End.	Forwarded round all
Jane Coll		Northern Polgrims Way Group – planning application	
Newsletters/Info		Community Resilience Briefings Venture North Tourism Community Councils Newsletter.	

## 10. Any Other Business

### Electrical Car Points – Ulbster Proposal

Following further information and discussion it was agreed that HDCC could not be involved in funding requests as it would become too complicated. **Chairman Stuart Mills will write to Ulbster to confirm this.**

### Defibrilators

Jim Sudd had replaced batteries and Starter pack in one of the Defbrilators at a cost of £114.56 which will be paid to Jim. He was having trouble finding out who actually owned the others from the official website. **Action: Chairman Stuart Mills – ongoing action with Jim Sudd in pinpointing and taking over the running of defibs in the area.**

Cost for Hire of Hall - Awaiting costs to come in.

Halkirk Village Council AGM and member – an invite had come in for HDCC to attend – Declan Gunn agreed to represent the Community Council on this and would attend the AGM.

### ACC (Assoc Community Councils)

An invite had been received but no-one has attended the ACC meetings since Billy Manson was rep. It would be useful if someone could attend and possibly on a rotational basis by Halkirk Community Councillors.

### HDBF (Halkirk District Benefit Fund)

**Secretary** to find out if HDCC already a member and if not apply on line for this.

**Wall on Bridge** - A couple of reports/complaints on the state of the wall and how it was falling down in a couple of places – Secretary to contact HDCC on who is responsible for this.

**11. Date of Next Meeting** - The next meeting is due to be held on **Wed 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023** and this would include AGM which needs to be held before end June.