

Halkirk District Community Council

Minutes of HDCC meeting held on Wed 13th March 2024 held in Ross Institute, Halkirk at 700pm

PRESENT: Chairman Stuart Mills, Dave Busby, Linda Levack, Nicola Campbell, Katrine Coghill, Declan Gunn,

In attendance: Robert Falconer

Apologies: – Cllr Ron Gunn, Laura Coghill,

1. Welcome

Stuart Mills welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Community Safety Report

Report has come in for Caithness with no concerns for Halkirk.

20mph Speed Limit – no date known for enforcing yet.

Oil theft in county was a concern in Lybster area.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2024 were accepted as a true record.

Minor change in the Seminar Dave Busby had attended.

Approved: Dave Busby, Seconded: Declan Gunn

4. Matters Arising from these Minutes

Benches – contact volunteers for minor repairs and Village council for replacement benches.

Secretary – to publish posts on Village Clean Ups to gain interest from local community

Defib – Secretary to send receipts to HDBF for funding received.

5. Treasurer's Report

End of year coming up and accounts being prepared for 31/03/24 – these will then be presented at next meeting on 15th May and audited for AGM on 26 June.

Village Officer costs were up as no funding had been received from HC – Secretary will chase this.

Data Protection paid, Insurance due 1/4/24

6. Village Warden's Report

Awaiting to hear from Highland Council on funding for this year before advertising for a new Village Officer. Funding has been cut and it is possible there is not enough as in previous years as budget cuts in HC and no funding in HDCC left.

Village Clean Up

Village Clean Up – weather has been too bad to continue and support will be sought from public as weather improves, Facebook posts to go out soon and dates to be arranged. Bring forward to next meeting to firm up support and dates.

Secretary – to publish posts on Village Clean Ups to gain interest from local community

As no permanent equipment we will push BYOB (Bring your own Brush). Fortnightly or monthly may be better and alternate Saturday/Sundays to fit in with more people.

Community Equipment held at Allans of Gillock

Trailer / 2 Self-propelled Mowers / 2 Stroke brush cutters / Hedge Trimmer/ Backpack blower / Fuel cans

7. Area Representatives Reports•

Forestry & SNH – Representative Linda Levack

- Roads

- Potholes and state of roads has not improved.
- A new pot hole machine is being trialled in Caithness and so far seems to be working.
- The query on Section 96 issues with movement of materials – Caithness had no bid at the time.

- 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

24/00377/FUL Erection of house Land 215M SE Of Smithy House Scotsclader Halkirk	Mrs Sue Whyke
Land 360M NE Of Achalone Cottage Achalone Halkirk The construction and operation of a 400kV substation, HVDC converter, access, construction compound, landscaping and ancillary infrastructure.	SSE

SubStation meeting - 2 attended

West Watten – planning not through

Ouglassy Windfarm Proposal – scoping consultation – Chairman Stuart Mills will draft reply

Tormsdale Windfarm – SDM will reply to Cllr Ron Gunn and invite HC Planning officer to next meeting.

Goticlay Windfarm objection letter has gone in.

8. Achlachan Microfund Applications

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- Caithness Kang Su Doo - £290 for mats – AGREED
- Brodie Disbury – any for school trip – not agreed

9. Correspondence

Halkirk Village Council	Rep for Village Council – AGM 26/3/24	Declan Gunn agreed as rep
Ouglassy Wind farm Proposal	Scoping Opinion Request	
Spittal – Loch Buidhe – Beaully	Upcoming Public engagements	
Email from Cllr Ron Gunn	Funding on Transport/Roads	Tormsdale – Stuart to replyt
SSE Renewables	Halsary windfarm – due diligence statement –	needs clarification before signing.

10. Any Other Business

Village Council update from Declan Gunn

- Village Council are keen to work together with Community Council with Village Officer duties
- Village Council looking for volunteer key holders to open Hall
- Funding for Warm Spaces
- Events – Easter coffee morning / Quiz / Galafest (similar to last year) / Scarecrow / 21st June Sunset Walk
- Playpark – Norblock appointed and will be starting soon - £90K funding – full cost £200K
- Dave Busby / Declan to share dates for events and Scotscladder Hall events.

Abandoned Car at Cemetery car park – Nicola will send number plate and details to Police Scotland.

Complaint received of a lot of pallets of wood outside a home on Bridge Street, concerns on environment – report to HC.

11. Date of Next Meeting

15th May 2024

Further Dates for 2024

26th June 2024 (inc AGM)

21st August 2024

30th October 2024

11th December 2024