



Northmavine Community Development Company

Approved Minutes

A meeting of NCDC was held on Thursday 23rd April 2026, in the Club Room of the Ollaberry Hall.

Present – Margaret Roberts, Alistair Williamson, Bill Manson, David Brown, Kelly Robertson, John Parry, Leslie Forsyth,

In Attendance – Charlotte Anderson & Karlyn Garrick

- 1. Apologies:** Bob McGeady, Margaret Roberts stepped in as Chair
- 2. Approval of previous minutes** – Alistair Williamson proposed and Bill Manson seconded.
- 3. Election of Vice Chair** – this was carried forward to the next meeting.
- 4. Hillswick shop** – There was a shop meeting the night before MR & CA shared that nearly all of the new shop board turned up for the meeting. They have come up with an action plan. Ondine MacDonald is making up some new signs, and is also managing the shop's Facebook page, with the new posts proving popular and gaining interest. MR said the board have set up a WhatsApp group, Michel has had very little input from the previous board of what he's to do or work on with the shop so he is looking for more directives from the new shop board. Ivor Arthur is trialling the role of Chair and Leighanne Hamilton is Vice Chair. AW said the EGM has proved beneficial. MR said it will take time for the new board to settle in and find their feet.
- 5. Nortenergy Update** – MR updated the board they have exceeded their target of turnover for the year. Inverness had the most sales in Scotland. They held a strategy meeting in March. They believe the Covid boost is now fading but current world issues could mean a bigger market for locals. Polycrub are gauging how long it takes to get a new hub set up. The Scottish market has proved popular. They need to advertise the diverse use of the Polycrub Opyl. Polycrub are looking to sell designs online to places they can't service such as Australia and Canada etc. Leslie Forsyth said he had connections in Ottawa, Canada that he could contact and report back. LF also queried Polycrub making glamping pods. MR said they're visiting a lot of shows this year, such as the North of Scotland Garden Show, The Black Isle Show, Royal Highland Show and more. DB queried if Polycrub were able to use the thicker pipe from the Aquaculture industry, though MR was doubtful on this.
- 6. Bruckland update** – CA said that Jim Duncan Feather has made a start to the electrical map of Bruckland. They have been along doing work for Polycrub so will get the map done soon. CA said she would like to get a shed built at Bruckland, as the big container holding the household items and toys is deteriorating all the time with 3 or 4 holes in it just now which have been patched several times. There is funding available from the Crown Estate fund and CLLD however the Shetland Islands Council is keeping the Crown Estate funding this year. CA has received quotes from Harry Wishart & Irvine Electrical. MR & BM agreed that a sketch is needed of what would be best at Bruckland is required.

ACTION: CA to make a sketch of proposed shed at Bruckland

- 7. Local Place Plan & Development Plan** – CA said the questionnaire boards were on display at the Old Urafirth School Housing Exhibition the weekend of the 18th & 19th April. There were a lot of responses, NCDC will continue with the fish & chip nights etc throughout the year.

- 8. Growing Local update** – CA updated the board that Kev has been busy planting tatties, strawberries, tomatoes, cucumbers and more lately. The Polycrub for the Stucca Community Garden Project was to be delivered yesterday (22nd April) however there are issues with a resident at Stucca who is proving to make it difficult as they are blocking the access for getting the Polycrub delivered, the Polycrub is now sitting at Bruckland until further notice. There has been brief contact with the resident but they won't speak to NCDC to discuss it, as there are some parts of the project which has changed since it began. MR said the council should be contacted as the resident is blocking access. CA said that she had spoken to the NFU who quoted £205.99 for Public Liability and £200.47 for Polycrub for the Stucca project. Growing Local received funding from the Royal Society of Edinburgh towards the composting project.
- 9. Financial update** – BM hasn't had a chance to look at the figures, so this will be continued at the next meeting. CA & FS have come up with a new budget sheet.
- 10. Old Urafirth School** – The Old Urafirth School Housing Project Exhibition was held in the Hillswick Hall on the 18th & 19th of April. There were around 45-50 folk that came along with 34 completed questionnaires. There was a mixture of ages however there were no one aged 15-24 that turned up. There was a 50/50 split with folk thinking the houses fitted in with the landscape, however feedback as largely positive. CA has a meeting with Paul Harrington from the Scottish Land Fund. She is also working on a Business Plan, and Luke Fraser with help with the funding. The deadline NCDC is aiming for is July, with a decision made in October, and the transfer would be complete in March.
- 11. Matters Arising –**
- a. **R100**- no update
 - b. **Dark Skies Festival** – CA has done some readings at night with the light meter that was purchased. She has a meeting in May with the Planetarium folk from south, and is looking at speaking to the Altaire fishing company for funding.
 - c. **Peerie Projects**
 - i. Fence around the North Roe War Memorial – has been completed
 - ii. CA has spoken to Shaun Johnson about the Heylor Road. CA to speak to Larry Gilbertson.
 - iii. Lauren Ramsay had contacted CA about replacing the Pirate Ship at the Ollaberry School.
 - iv. DB suggested a picnic bench at the Tangwick Haa
 - v. Cootch Kettles at Hillswick will need cleaned out and very fine chicken wire under the metal grates to help keep the litter out.
 - d. **Old Scottish Water building** – CA said Maree Hay had been contacted by various members of the community to find a use for the Old Scottish Water building at Eela Water. BM said it would depend on the condition of the building.
 - e. **SSEN** – CA has received an email from Gordon Bell who is the new SSEN Liaison Manager. He's keen to meet with community groups as well as the NCDC Board.
 - f. **Shoormal** – the water pressure has gone down. Ross Keith thinks there could be a leak in the pipes,

MR welcomed the new directors – Leslie Forsyth & John Parry. The next meeting will be Wednesday 13th May.

Meeting ended at 20:30

