

KINLOCHBERVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 01.05.12 in The Village Hall

Present: John Mann (Chair), Gary Sutherland (Vice-Chair), Christine Mackenzie (Treasurer), Stuart McHugh (Secretary), Angus Ross, Kirsty Holland, Mairi Eastcroft, Murdo MacPherson

Also present: George Farlow (Highland Council), Fiona Donaldson (CPC), Elaine McHugh (Minutes), Stuart Maxwell & Sheila Brown (HMIE), PC Ian Sutherland

(1) **Apologies** – Apologies were received from Cllr Linda Munro.

(2) **Minutes (06.03.12)**

The Minutes of the last meeting were proposed for approval by Stuart and seconded by Gary.

(3) **Matters Arising (06.03.12)**

(a) **Geopark – Item (3)(a)**

Cllr Farlow gave a brief update on the five road shows in each of the community council areas. Over the road shows around 80 people signed up having heard how Geotourism has tremendous potential for this area., however more names for membership are required. An application to the Coastal Communities Fund has been submitted and the outcome is awaited. Geopark is now a Company limited by guarantee and the finance required over the next three years with a timeline has been agreed. Cllr Farlow wished to record thanks to Sutherland Partnership and the Accountant for their help through this period.

(b) **Water quality – Item (3)(b)** - Cllr Farlow confirmed that was on hold pending the elections.

(c) **Housing – Item (3)(c)** – again on hold as above

(d) **VisitScotland – Item (3)(d)**

Letter on behalf of KLB CC sent to Mike Cantley (VS) communicating concerns over the negative experience with Inverness Tourist Office staff. His reply expressing his disappointment was read out to the meeting and confirmed that the Regional Director, Scott Armstrong, is liaising with Rachel Skene (HIE) to arrange a familiarisation trip for Information Staff, although exact dates are yet unknown. Stuart felt there was a need to make VS realise that not all attractions are tangible and that for this area the 'attraction' lies in the natural landscape, beaches and scenery. Fiona is waiting on a further email from Rachel (HIE) but agreed to write to her on behalf of the community council outlining the CC's thoughts. **Action : FD**

(e) **Port Committee – Item (3)(e)** – still waiting on reply from Stuart Bell.

(f) **Brochure insert fees – Item (3)(f)** - Stuart passed further advert fees to Christine to bank and receipt.

(g) **North West Care Alliance – Item (3)(g)**

Cllr Farlow confirmed Crossroads had now taken over the former NWCA, and that Sylvia was still Co-ordinator. He finally presented the petition, which was accepted by Margaret Davidson, Chair of the Housing and Social Work Committee, who responded to Kevin Crowe. Highland Council took the stance that the matter was a Scottish Government issue, and subsequently a letter was written to Nicola Sturgeon. However, she stated that it was down to Highland Council. A letter has been written to Bill Alexander, HC Director for Social Work, for an apology. Cllr Farlow has also met with Crossroads.

(h) Tourist Information – Item (3)(h)

Christine now has the display racks and is working on finding a space in the garage to place it. The Advice Centre staff is busily boxing up the leaflets.

(i) Bervie Road – Item (3)(i) - ongoing

(j) Copies of Draft Minutes – Item (3)(j)

At present only Approved minutes are posted on the website, however, it was agreed that from this time on Draft copies will be displayed. **Action: Minute Secretary**

At this point of the meeting the floor was given over to Stuart Maxwell (HMIE). He explained the reason for the visit, as a follow through of the inspection last year, and that this encompassed the educational catchment area as a whole in relation to youth opportunities. He said that the aforementioned items (Matters Arising) under discussion gave him a feel for the community and its area of strength and thanked the members for their time. He and Sheila Brown left the meeting at 1945.

(k) Signage at OSM – Item (6) (Correspondence)

Highland Council Tourist Department is on hold pending new funding coming through, although they are in talks with TEC services. Cllr Farlow reiterated that all signage from the Skiag junction onwards north is to be reviewed.

(l) Core paths – Item ((7)(a) – Stuart said this appeared to be in hand.

(m) Accommodation/Service Providers' Display – Item (7)(b)

Following a meeting with Stuart, Gary came up with an A3 sized revised accommodation list based on that displayed on the website. It was agreed to keep it separate to the brochure and that should advertisers not already on it who wished to be added for fee of £20. It was proposed to place it on the CC noticeboards and at the harbour.

(n) School cattle grids – Item (7)(c)

A reply had been received from Henry Flett who thought the grids probably belonged to the Education Authority, but his team would take a look and if they needed tightening would do it. Stuart thought, when he passed over them in the community bus, that they seemed quieter.

(o) Sheep at Droman – Item (7)(d)

Stuart had written to the Grazings Clerk but no response had been received. It was thought that the wrong grazing committee might have been approached, however, the recipient of the letter has not been in touch to correct this. It was felt there was a need to establish the correct grazing clerk.

(p) Fishing and the Faroes – Item (7)(g)

No response to the letter to Richard Lochhead has been received. Christine mentioned the video that was going to be produced by David Forbes with, the then, primary school teacher, Graham Gore, about the area. She would speak to the new head teacher to find out more. **Action: CM**

(4) Improving signage for Kinlochbervie at the Rhiconich junction

Gary read out a comment received via the Website commenting on the poor signage. The writer felt it needed to be made more obvious to make the turn to KLB and showing what is on offer. Stuart thought this would probably be crossing with what Cllr Farlow is looking into (see (3)(k) above).

(5) Condition of Information Board at Rhiconich junction

Riding on the back of the previous item, the noticeboard at the end of the Loch needs looking into, items were faded and the overall look not good. Stuart said Tommy had dealt with this and asked for thanks from the Community Council to Tommy for his efforts on behalf of the Community.

(6) Community Project Co-ordinator's Report

Contacts made over the last year are beginning to come to fruition. Application submitted to Coastal Communities Fund for £200K to develop Loch Clash. £4.5K from Ward Forum's Discretionary budget towards Loch Clash legal costs received and there might be more forthcoming from HIE. Community ownership of Loch Clash is very near. There is funding available for more pontoons at harbour. Cllr Farlow mentioned that the small fuel boat no longer comes into KLB, the fuel is now transported by road two to three times a day. Fiona meeting with Village Hall committee re refurbishment. Visit from HIE to spend time with Community Company.

(7) Treasurer's report

Christine reported £2,322 in the bank account with £454.38 in the brochure fund. She confirmed the grant for this year from Highland Council had been received.

(8) Correspondence

Items of incoming correspondence of a public nature are available for inspection at the N&WS Advice and Information Service at the harbour.

INCOMING

Highland Council:

- Weekly Planning Lists – placed in CC folder in Advice Centre
- Highland and Moray Countryside Rangers Guided Walks and Events Booklet 2012 – placed in CC folder in Advice Centre
- Highland Soil Biodiversity Festival 19-27 May 2012

ARMY - Notification of Aviation Exercise 25-30 March 2012 - displayed

- Notification of Joint Warrior Exercise 11-26 April 2012 - displayed

NHS Highland – Newsletter – placed in CC folder in Advice Centre

Association of Scottish Community Councils – Information on and invitation to the ASCC's final conference – *Learning from the Past – Preparing for the Future*. Details emailed to Committee members – placed in CC folder in Advice Centre

NWS LHP – Paperwork for next meeting on 5 April in the Ceilidh House, KLB – this meeting was been subsequently cancelled. Paperwork for May meeting.

Henry Flett email re Cattle Grids (reply to Outgoing letter below)

Mike Cantley, VisitScotland – reply to letter sent 12 March 2012 – copy placed in CC folder in Advice Centre

Sue Agnew, SNH - email replying to second letter re OSM machair (see Outgoing Mail)

Sylvia Mackay – email regarding new upgrade to patient transport service – copy placed in Advice Centre.

Richard Osborne – email regarding Quad Bikes on OSM beach.

OUTGOING

Letter to Mike Cantley, VisitScotland – re tourist information

Letter to Ann Mackay – re car park at Droman

Letter to Richard Lochhead MSP – fishing and the Faroes

Email to Henry Flett re Cattle Grids

Letter to Sue Agnew – request for update of her email re machair

Stuart highlighted Sue Agnew's response to CC's letter, which was not very encouraging. Following discussion, it was suggested a further letter be sent asking for a copy of the Agreement she mentions and when it comes into force. It was felt that an approach to the crofter should be made by an authority with the power to enforce it. In addition, ask where the notices are that were supposed to be put up by SNH explaining the value of the machair. **Action: Secretary**

Quad bikes on beach. Following the piece on the Website of this anti-social act, an email to Gary was received from Richard Osborne. He wished to correct the content of the article in the Northern Times where it was wrongly stated that Crown Estates owned the beach. The Rhiconich Estate owns it. Richard is willing to pay for a sign to discourage any misuse., however, following a conversation between Richard and Stuart, it has been agreed to wait and see whether this occurs again or is a one-off. It was thought the culprits were not local. If it re-occurs then a sign could be erected.

Stuart also highlighted the Highland Soil Biodiversity Festival due to be held 19-27 May.

(9) AOCB

(a) Church Access

Sara Harkins (née Barr) had spoken to Mairi regarding improving the approach to the church to allow for disabled access, and would the Community Council support this. John confirmed that Sara had spoken to him also and further talks would take place. The CC agreed to support.

(b) Resignation of Secretary and Minute Secretary

Having already notified John of their intention, Stuart and Elaine confirmed their resignations of the above posts effective from the conclusion of the May meeting. Stuart said he was happy to continue to work with Gary on the brochure project, however, a new CC representative for the Geopark was required. Murdo agreed to step in. Elaine would type up and distribute the May minutes and liaise with the new Minute Secretary when in post. Co-options to be discussed at next meeting.

(c) AGM/Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the AGM would be held on 5 June 2012 at 7.00 pm followed by the monthly Ordinary Meeting. Elaine agreed to raise and display the notice for AGM. **Action: EMc**

The Meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

Approved Minutes of all meetings can be found on the Kinlochbervie website: www.kinlochbervie.info