

KINLOCHBERVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Following conclusion of business of the AGM held on 4 October 2011 an informal discussion took place covering items since the last ordinary Meeting on 6 September 2011.

It should be noted that the Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 6 September 2011 along with these notes will need to be approved by the new Committee once in office.

Present: Graham Wild (Chairman), John Mann (Vice Chairman).
Christine Mackenzie (Treasurer), Mairi Eastcroft, Murdo MacPherson,
Stuart McHugh, Michael Otter

Members of the public present: Gary Sutherland, Alison Hill

Also Present: Linda Munro (Highland Councillor) part, Fiona Donaldson (Community Project Co-ordinator), Elaine McHugh (Secretary)

(1) Help From Forces

Following further inspection of the location for the re-alignment of the steps to the beach at OSM, Murdo voiced concern over who will actually be carrying out the work. He felt it imperative that the quality of work needed to be very good and he hoped that the manpower would be proficient enough to meet this. Michael asked if a specification could be made available, this was possible but even with a specification the manpower would need to have the proper engineering skills. Michael felt that we should be in a position to say that we need a professional job done. Graham to raise this with Dave Halpin when he makes contact.

Cllr Munro joined the meeting at this point and read out to the meeting the latest information on the upcoming Community Council elections, which she will email to Elaine for forwarding.

(2) Correspondence

A few items of correspondence received:

- Cllr Farlow – email to advise of the long-awaited repairs to Lairg Road, Bonar Bridge.
- Association of Scottish Community Councils advising of its intention to cease its work with effect by April 2012.
- Cllr Farlow – email advising of Scottish Government Grant to deliver the Universal Home Insulation Scheme 2011-12.
- CSER licensing.
- Email from Gail Ross – re community project, request for CC to assist in sponsoring planting of bulbs.
- Letters from Trust Housing Association regarding complaints and concerns over antisocial behaviour. These are being investigated further and a full response awaited.

Following a question from Graham, it was confirmed by Cllr Munro that the position of Minute Secretary remained in place during this time of transition.

(3) CPC

Fiona gave a verbal report on behalf of the Community Company. She felt very encouraged by the feedback from the community in respect of this project. She was also doing work for the Community Bus Association, and supporting the Geopark initiative. She said that there is lots going on and all was very well documented.

Cllr Munro asked for apologies to be recorded from Cllr Farlow.

(4) Housing

Cllr Munro highlighted the difficulties in a shortage of housing and key housing and that this was not just in KLB. Also, some areas throughout the Ward reported antisocial behaviour issues. Cllr Munro would like to see either officers come out to speak to several CCs or hold a workshop at a future Ward Forum. She feels that if CCs show pressure of genuine need LIFT can offer assistance, for example, part ownership. In respect of antisocial behaviour the Ward could come together to assess how many callouts of the emergency services have occurred over the last 12 months. She feels there is value in informing communities that all people have rights and that they are aware of these and collectively they could have these taken seriously as opposed to each community working by itself. Cllr Munro would like CCs to come together and work as one and asked what the meeting thought of this. Graham felt a workshop at a future Ward Forum would be a good idea. Fiona asked how many there were on the housing list? Cllr Munro to email this information to Elaine to forward on.

(5) VisitScotland

Graham asked if the CC would support a letter recently published in the Northern Times from a Tourism Operator. Fiona gave a recount of a recent visit to the VisitScotland Tourist Office in Inverness in which she asked about facilities in this area and Durness along with accommodation. She was shown a map and told that north of Ullapool there was nothing to see or do - nothing up there. She was also told, at a recent Geopark meeting, by a member of VisitScotland that she probably did not ask the right question. Graham asked if the meeting was in agreement that a letter be drafted to VisitScotland in support of the letter in the Northern Times. Stuart suggested putting it on hold for the new Community Council so it is on a firm footing. He also suggested that it is done in conjunction with other CCs in the local area and that the letter is sent to the person at the top who was confirmed as Malcolm Roughhead the CEO. Whilst Cllr Munro agreed she said November would be getting near to the new season, plus next season's subscriptions had already been made, she felt it should be taken up now with a letter written to the MP/MSP pointing out that this type of non-marketing is not helpful to this area. Cllr Munro said she would be willing to write on our behalf. This was taken up and thanks given.

(6) Homecoming 2014

Fiona pointed out that VGES had put out tenders for a feasibility study for what can be done for Homecoming 2014 to attract people to the east coast. Her question is, who is doing this for the north west coast? Graham to look at the report issued earlier this year.

(7) Date for next Ordinary Meeting

The date for the next Ordinary meeting is provisionally set for 6 December 2011 although this could change once the new committee is in office.

The Meeting ended at 8.10pm.

Addendum

Cllr Munro gave a vote of thanks to Graham and John also thanked him for his enthusiasm and tirelessness in carrying out his duties as Chairman.

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