

# KINLOCHBERVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of Meeting held on 01.02.11 at The Village Hall

**Present:** John Mann (Chair), Joan Mackay, Sylvia Mackay, Murdo MacPherson, Stuart McHugh, Michael Otter, Angus Ross

**Members of the public present:** Sheila Urquhart

**Also present:** George Farlow, Linda Munro (Highland Councillors), Fiona Donaldson (Community Project Co-ordinator), Elaine McHugh (Secretary)

In the absence of Graham Wild, John Mann took the Chair. The meeting expressed their good wishes to Graham. Cllr Farlow mentioned that Cllr Munro would be present to represent the Council following on from Cllr Robbie Rowantree.

### Agenda Items

#### (1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Graham Wild, Christine Mackenzie, Mairi Eastcroft, PC Ian Sutherland.

The next item on the Agenda was Water Quality, however, it was agreed to move this down the list as another member of the public had expressed an interest in attending and had not yet shown.

#### (2) Minutes (02.11.10)

**Item (7)(b)** - the second sentence is to be disregarded and struck from the Approved Minutes. Following this amendment, the Minutes of the last meeting were proposed for approval by Angus and seconded by Sylvia and duly approved.

#### (3) Matters Arising from the Minutes (02.11.10)

##### (a) Patient Transport – (tem (3)(a)

Sylvia and Michael attended a meeting in December where they were told that the pilot scheme running in KLB was a success and would continue. It was also decided to provide a bigger vehicle. This would enable two seats to be available for those who did not strictly meet the medical criteria but required transport. Regarding allocation of these seats, the same protocol would be used as for the other seats and it was agreed that residents in the postcode area north of Lochinver would be offered these seats when they telephoned. Sylvia is to speak to all GP practices in the area on how to access these seats. Sylvia is to be provided with an update on numbers and it was agreed to monitor progress over the next couple of months. It must be stressed that these seats are not just for everyone, only those who cannot attend using their own transport.

##### (b) KLB High School – Item (3)(d)

Reference John MacDonald's letter, Murdo had heard nothing in the school regarding any changes. Sylvia drew attention to the last Minutes whereby Cllr Rowantree was to take this up on our behalf. Fiona mentioned that during a recent meeting with Andy Mackay he agreed to speak with John MacDonald and take this up as he felt the community should have better access. Cllr Farlow agreed to speak to Andy Mackay and report back to Elaine on progress. **GF to action.**

**(c) Geopark – Item (3)(i)**

Cllr Farlow updated the members on events. The Steering Group meeting in December was cancelled due to bad weather and is rescheduled to take place on 18 February. The third videoconference meeting to discuss the way forward is due on 22 February. The Geocentre feasibility study is on course and is to be presented to SNH, who are the sponsors, in May.

Linda Munro joined the meeting at this point.

**(4) Water Quality**

Michael had asked for samples of his own water to be taken and was awaiting results, he will let Elaine know of these. It was also apparent that another householder sample chosen at random had been taken. Michael had also researched an article of similar concern in Canada and this is available if anyone wished to see it. Cllr Farlow's attendance tonight was primarily because Scourie also had this problem high on their agenda. Prior to the KLB treatment works being upgraded levels of THMs were high and samples taken then had failed. Scottish Water and/or SEPA were to be asked why they failed and when the treatment works were commissioned. Were the failures before or after upgrades to the treatment works? Too much chlorine, burst water pipes, and pipes flushed with chlorine could add to the problem. It was noted that there seemed to be a series of failures in this area. Scottish Water is happy to invite representatives from Community Councils to visit the treatment works and see operations. Cllr Farlow felt there needed to be a method of communication with Scottish Water and a tour of the works might be a step in the right direction. Cllr Munro felt the way forward would be to compile an accurate and factual letter and invite Scottish Water to attend a Community Council meeting. Following a recent LHP meeting the newspaper article was passed to Cameron Stark of NHS Highland who said there had been problems but these were now solved. Sylvia has asked for more information previous to the new works being on line and for how long had these THMs been found. It was agreed to wait until Sylvia and Michael had received replies upon which we will write to Scottish Water. **MO/SM to advise**

In addition to above, Graham had spoken earlier today to Joanna Peebles, Highland Regional Officer of Scottish Water, who stated that SW have to adhere to the EU Directive on water quality and that the quality at the Rhiconich treatment works is tested and treated at source and the levels of excess chemicals are not relevant there.

**(5) The Future of Coastguard Stations**

John brought to the attention of the meeting an article taken from the Save Stornoway Coastguard website (<http://www.stornowaycg.co.uk/>) which cites local knowledge by rescue personnel as the main reason why they believe that the Stornoway Coastguard station should be retained. Cllr Munro confirmed that all agencies are putting together reports and are taking the issue seriously. Michael had written to John Thurso and was waiting a reply and suggested that other members could do the same. It was understood that the RAF Search & Rescue Service was also to be privatised, which could have additional impact. Sylvia pointed out that maternity cover in the area would be seriously affected as Air Ambulances are unable to take maternity cases due to the lack of room, so would be another impact if the coastguard service was withdrawn or limited. Letter from Community Council to be drafted to John Thurso expressing our concerns – **EMc to action**

**(6) Treasurer's Report**

The financial situation remains the same as stated in the November Minutes.

## (7) Correspondence

The following items of correspondence had been received and those of a public nature are available for inspection at the North and West Sutherland Advice and Information Service at the harbour.

**Northern Constabulary** – Sutherland and Easter Ross Monthly Reports: October, November, and December.

### **Highland Council:**

- CS&ER Planning Matters – papers for next meeting
- Weekly lists of planning applications for Sutherland, Caithness & E Ross
- Letter explaining Highland Council Fair Trade Zone, plus leaflets for distribution.
- Notification of Rural Housing Conference – 24/25 February at Dunkeld.
- TECS Services – Public Transport Tender Consultation 2011 (Bus & Taxis).

**Bluefin Insurance Services** – regarding personal liability insurance for CC members.

**Docherty Consulting Ltd** – Re: Sallachy Wind Farm Proposal. This company is acting for WKN Windkraft Nord as the community liaison team carrying out a programme of consultation.

**CVS North** – Email attaching invitation letter and information on Wild North (festival for the Caithness & Sutherland areas).

**NWSLHP** – Notes of 4 November & 13 January meetings plus dates and paperwork for future meetings.

**KLB High School Parent Council** – copy of letter to Michael Russell MSP regarding implementation of the Curriculum for Excellence.

**Hugh Fraser, Highland Council** - Response to School Parent Council letter above.

### **Scottish Water**

- Media Release entitled *Highlands and Islands urged to protect pipes*. Information on protecting pipes etc during current severe weather.
- News Release to newspaper across Black Isle U& Ross-shire areas asking for help as Big Freeze draws 20 million litres of water a day from Highland supplies, which suggests a large number of burst pipes.

**Scottish Government** – Association of Scottish Community Councils Stakeholder Survey 2010. Email forwarded to Committee on 7 December 2010.

**Scottish Parliament** – Holyrood Matters, newsletter from Rob Gibson MSP for the Highlands & Islands

**Scourie Community Council** - Email from the Secretary regarding KLB tap water quality.

**NHS Highland** – December Team Update

**Scottish Ambulance Service** – email from Linda Kennedy covering discussions and agreement of PTS Trial.

**Association of Scottish Community Councils** – Re: Biennial Area Representative Election.

**SNH** – Winter 2010 edition of *The Nature of Scotland magazine*.

## **(8) AOCB**

### **(a) Core Paths**

Following an email from Matt Dent, the Highland Access Officer, brown directional signs are available to guide people to the Core Path trails. In order to progress he needs confirmation from the Community Council as to whether we want them. The consensus was yes. The matter was also raised about the fingerpost signs at the junction of the main road and OSM road. It was felt the wording was too small and difficult to decipher from a car, although they serve their purpose to pedestrians. Cllr Farlow said he would speak to Colin Simpson, Highland Council Tourist & Leisure, on our behalf and ask him to come back to us. **GF to action**

### **(b) Road Salt**

According to recent newspaper articles, the full quota of salt has been restored to the Highlands.

### **(c) Public Transport**

Cllr Farlow brought to the member's attention a Transport meeting due to take place on Thursday in KLB. In the light of all existing routes being up for tender, representatives from the Community Transport Unit will give a presentation which will include guidance on how to tender and what to tender for. Groups are encouraged to tender for school contracts and to register services whereby expenses could be claimed. The Web has information about the routes and their coverage. Sylvia has a letter asking for community councils and others interested to comment and she requested that as a community council we should write showing our support for the services to KLB. Additionally, as a Community Council it would be worth pursuing a route from KLB to Inverness putting forward that it would be more suitable to local needs. The deadline for feedback is 21 February. Murdo raised the issue of the condition of the buses especially those that ferry children to and from school, and in particular their ability to cope in bad weather. **Action SM/EMc feedback.**

### **(d) Access to Advice Centre**

Stuart raised the condition of the second access to the harbour. When the main access is closed off due to operations, the second access has to be used and this is full of large and deep potholes. Heavy lorries are the main cause of the problem. This has been raised before and the holes filled but as soon as it rains the problem resurfaces. Cllr Farlow will speak to the Director of TEC services. The long-term solution would be to concrete the area. **GF to action**

## **(9) Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 1 March 2011.

The Meeting ended at 8.20pm.

Approved Minutes of all meetings can be found on the Kinlochbervie website: [www.kinlochbervie.info](http://www.kinlochbervie.info)