

# KINLOCHBERVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of Meeting held on 01.03.11 at The Village Hall

**Present:** Graham Wild (Chair), John Mann (Vice-chair), Christine Mackenzie, (Treasurer)  
Mairi Eastcroft, Sylvia Mackay, Murdo MacPherson, Stuart McHugh, Angus Ross,

**Also present:** Linda Munro (Highland Councillor), PC Ian Sutherland, Fiona Donaldson (CPC),  
Elaine McHugh (Secretary)

### Agenda Items

#### (1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Joan Mackay and Michael Otter

#### (2) Minutes (01.02.11)

The Minutes of the last meeting were proposed for approval by Stuart and seconded by John and duly approved.

#### (3) Matters Arising from the Minutes (01.02.11)

##### (a) High School facilities – Item (3)(b)

Fiona met with Andy Mackay, John Macdonald, Sylvia and Ian Smith to discuss opening up the fitness room facilities. From a further meeting Jasmine and Kirsty were keen to take this project forward and Fiona spoke to Andy regarding the way forward. Fiona has obtained the prices and availability as it now stands from Anne Debenham and will forward these to Sylvia and, if felt appropriate, to post these on the KLB website with details of what might happen in the future.

##### (b) Geopark – Item (3)(c)

Effort has been made by all the Geoparks in the Scottish region to consider joining forces and become a Scottish Geopark network. All individual parks are in the same dire situation as the NWH Geopark. Murdo emphasised that there is now a definite keenness to keep community councils involved and a statement is due shortly asking them to approve or otherwise what's on the table before moving forward. Nothing will happen until community councils advise and endorse.

##### (c) Water Quality – Item (4)

Graham read out an email from Michael Otter updating on the situation regarding samples taken from his property. In essence, results from tests for chlorine are still awaited while tests for THMs are due to be taken on 3 March following Scottish Water's failure to turn up to do this on a previously agreed date. Graham had copied MO's email to Joanna Peebles, Scottish Water Regional Manager, and is waiting a reply. If a response is not forthcoming, Cllr Munro agreed to follow up on our behalf, but suggested we explore other avenues first. **GW to action.**

Sylvia said several members of community had pointed out that chlorine levels were really high once again and the general consensus of the meeting was that chlorine levels have steadily increased and the new plant had not reduced these.

##### (d) Coastguard – Item (5)

A reply to the Community Council's letter to John Thurso had been received. Enclosed with the letter was a copy of the Government's consultation document. Graham read out the letter to the meeting, which confirmed that John Thurso is pursuing this issue with Ministers. The consultation document can be downloaded from [www.mcga.gov.uk](http://www.mcga.gov.uk). The deadline for responses to the document is 5 pm on 24 March 2011. Stuart reiterated Michael's suggestion at the last meeting for individuals to write to John Thurso.

#### (4) Treasurer's Report

Christine reported £2,521.00 in the bank account, £2,503.00 in the Christmas Lights' fund and £215.00 in the War Memorial fund. She said now would be a good time to make a donation to any community project requiring assistance. Graham suggested a donation to the Community Company to assist its fundraising efforts. He mentioned that the Company had dropped its application to the Jubilee People's Millions in favour of another fund more specific to our needs and that Fiona was making contact with a representative of that fund. Fiona added that she had received two calls from The Lottery Fund, explaining their procedure, which whilst favourable was longwinded with no guarantees at the end of it.

#### (5) 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.

**CSER Planning Application Committee** - Agenda and supporting papers for next meeting.

**Northern Constabulary** - Sutherland & East Ross Monthly Report

**Highland Council** - Weekly Planning Application Lists

**Association of Scottish Community Councils** - Invite to attend a Common Ground Meeting in Glasgow on 26 March 2011 plus copies of spring journal.

**Wickstead Playscapes** - Flyer re play equipment.

**NWS LHP** - Notes of Meeting held at KLB on 2 February 2011 plus paperwork for next.

**Irene MacLeod on behalf of CVS North** - email regarding *Homecoming 2014 in North & West Sutherland*.

**John Thurso** – response to CC's letter re Coastguard Stations.

**NHS Highland/Northern Constabulary/Highland Council/Vol Sector Orgs** – joint initiative *Violence Against Women Survivors Survey*

#### (6) AOCB

##### (a) Oldshoremore

Complaints had been received about the state of the car park area at OSM beach. Graham is to contact Henry in respect of the cow dung in the car park and a hole in the stone wall.

##### (b) Ceilidh House

Sylvia mentioned recent rumours that the Ceilidh House was to close. The Ceilidh House had changed from a service level agreement to grant funding and that confirmation for this grant from the Council was awaited. It is hopeful that funding will be granted, should this not be the case, strong representation will be made. John asked what would happen to the building if it did close. The building belongs to the NHS who would use it for office space. **SM to keep members informed.**

##### (c) Road to Heliport

Stuart said he had received a complaint about the condition of the road leading to the Heliport/rubbish containers. Graham to take up with Henry. **GW to action.**

**(d) HIE Survey/Website**

The KLB website posted a reminder about completing a survey recently mailed out by HIE. Stuart asked of the meeting who had received the mailing, as it seems many homes in OSM had not. Fiona said she was sent the Electoral Roll by HIE, which she updated, and they used this. It was agreed to ask Gary to put a link to the survey form on website. **FD to action.**

**(e) Broadband**

The application for funding to LEADER for wireless broadband failed and it was asked at the recent Company/CPC meeting if we could approach Highland Council for guidelines on how to push forward in order to improve the speed of broadband. Cllr Munro agreed to make enquiries and report back. LEADER said the funding applied for was three times more than other communities.

**(f) Tap at Sheigra Cemetery**

It was asked if the tap had been removed as there is no water. As far as Graham is aware it is still there, however, he would mention it to Henry. **GW to action.**

**(g) Ward Forum – attended by Graham & Fiona**

**Social Care**

It is envisaged the all care facilities will be brought under one umbrella. It was questionable whether what they predict can actually be implemented. Cllr Munro said that Bill Alexander did not discuss individuals but spoke as a whole. In respect of Care Alliance he was adamant that 'at home' care would cost £15.00 per hour. It is argued that due to the high cost of fuel and that in this area carers travel further than in others, travel would have to be factored in. The general feeling is that we need to influence Bill Alexander on how the small amount of money available is spent and argue our case of having to cover a wider area.

**Policing**

Chief Inspector Matthew Reiss gave a resume on the move to amalgamate police forces and that this is not the view of Highland Constabulary in any way and they intend to do everything to avert this. Bettyhill station closes in April, however there will be a touring car, operating out of the Information Centre, to deal with all aspects of crime when in the area. Sharing station facilities was brought up and Rhiconich is still under discussion. A video on driving instruction is available to S6 pupils. It is a very powerful film and has been successful where previously shown.

**Cost of fuel**

Several community councils firmly put forward the need for some parity in respect of fuel prices. The Highland Council agreed to take forward and push very strongly.

**(h) Theft**

Ian reported the substantial theft of trawl doors from the harbour over the previous 12 months. The items were last seen in February 2010. It was pointed out that there is no CCTV in that area but it might be possible to get some form of security installed and a lockable compound. Ian is asking the community to keep an eye out and report anything suspicious.

Cllr Munro apologised for her lateness. Unfortunately, our meeting coincides with her attendance at appeals in Inverness, however, she will get here as soon as possible.

**(7) Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 5 April 2011.

The Meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

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