

KINLOCHBERVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 01/09/09 at Taigh Ceilidh

Present: Graham Wild (Chairman), Christine MacKenzie (Treasurer), Mairi Eastcroft, Sylvia Mackay, Joan Mackay, John Mann

Members of the public present: Pat Cooper, Stuart McHugh

Also present: Robbie Rowantree (Highland Councillor), PC Ian Sutherland (Advisory), Elaine McHugh (Secretary)

Agenda Items

(1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Michael Otter, Murdo MacPherson

(2) Minutes

The Minutes were proposed for approval by Joan and seconded by Christine and duly approved.

(3) Matters Arising from the Minutes

(a) Viewpoint

Following an enquiry as to progress, Graham reiterated the suggestion of an alternative route.

(b) Signs

The signs were all in place, however, concern was raised at the meeting that the lettering needs to be clearer. To this end, Graham has volunteered to go over the wording in black paint.

(c) Community Bus

Following a meeting of the Community Bus Committee, the list of alternatives has been paired down to two, Fiat and Peugeot. Graham is to meet with a representative of Peugeot to go over the exact requirements but they are looking to be the favoured option. Following a successful meeting the bus will be ordered.

(d) Submarine Incident

Unfortunately, David Halpin was unable to make this meeting but will attend in October.

(e) Key House/Houses for Teacher

Cllr Rowantree confirmed that The Highland Small Communities Housing Trust owns the Key House and it is understood that it was offered for sale to the present incumbents. The meeting felt that it was not right to dispose of it without referring to the Community and Cllr Rowantree said it was a point he had raised. Cllr Rowantree would like to see Education housing coming under the same banner as The Highland Small Communities Housing Trust. It was felt that there should also be a time limit on occupation for residences owned and managed by Highland Educational Services. Cllr Rowantree agreed to follow up and obtain clarification on policy for Education houses.

(f) Community Council Elections

Graham confirmed the Election Timetable to the meeting.

(g) Orcadian Stone Company – Exhibition

Cllr Rowantree outlined the situation regarding Geopark, its funding and future and until their position is clear they are not progressing initiatives like the display reported on in the July Minutes. It was felt, however, that a register of interest with Orcadian direct on behalf of the Community be made. Graham confirmed that it is something the Community Company could consider as a project. It was agreed that we should channel our interest in the first instance through George.

(h) Patient Transport Service

This issue is to be raised at the next Ward Forum. It was also on the agenda of the recent North and West Sutherland Care Alliance meeting held at Shin Falls. Sylvia briefed the meeting on those discussions, outlining an impending trial that involved a mapping exercise of all services' transport. In addition, GPs would be canvassed on their willingness to note, on a patient's record, his or her requirement for patient transport in relation to their clinical needs. One problem is the lack of volunteers in the area, and it is also felt that some volunteers should be trained to deal with such clinical needs should a situation arise during transport, or mobility assistance be required. A report will follow after the N&WS LHP meeting on Thursday.

(4) Home visits by local Fire Brigade

These visits used to take place but are now the responsibility of the central Fire Service body. The local brigade are willing to undertake these again but feel pressure from the Community Council to the central body would be beneficial to add weight. The visits are valuable to convey to the public the safety measures they can take to avert a fire and are crucially important to those who may be hard of hearing, the elderly and less able bodied. It was agreed that Graham would draft a letter to the central Fire Service.

(5) Treasurer's Report

The Community Council account holds £1,077.00 and the War Memorial Fund £161.00. It was felt there is a need to increase the War Memorial Fund for the future provision of wreaths. Graham suggested that one of the forthcoming Whist Drive nights could see the proceeds going to the Fund. The meeting felt this to be a good idea. Graham also highlighted the replacement of a bench at Achriesgill (from KVC funds) plus two notice boards.

(6) Correspondence

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

1. Emails, Fran Loots (JMT):
 - Climate Challenge fund – small grants/changes deadline.
 - Blog on Food miles etc
 - Funding for Community Energy Projects
 - Blog – Search for Installers continue
 - Blog – From Eigg about their Green Island concept
 - attaching 'On Site Generation' Newsletter
2. Emails, Liz Manson:
 - Notes of the NWS LHP held 2nd July 2009.
 - Agenda for NWS LHP meeting to be held 6 August at Rhiconich Hotel.
 - 'The Future is Older' – International Conference 7/8 Sept 2009
 - Notes of NWSLHP Meeting of 6 August 2009
 - Notification of extension to feedback on first part of Strategy for Scottish Ambulance Service.
 - Agenda for NWS LHP Meeting to be held 03/09/09 at Durness.
3. Letter and enclosures, David Knight (Highland Opportunity). Reintroducing Business Gateway.
4. Email, Will Sutherland. Current Scottish Ambulance Future Strategy Consultation.
5. Email, Andy Mackay. Community Council Election Guidance Notes.
6. Letter, Scottish Health Council. Review of NHS Highland's Process for Identifying their key Patient Focus and Public Involvement Actions for 2009-2010.
7. Email, NHS Highland. June/July Team Update.
8. Email, Highland Council. Agenda for CSER Licensing Board meeting to be held on 10 August.
9. Email, Anne MaCrae. Agenda for CSER PAC Committee 18 August 2009
10. Email, Highland Government. Agendas for Licensing Board and Committee Meetings to be held on 25 August.
11. Letter. Action for planning transparency (APT). Notice of 10 week Consultation, beginning 31 August, on the 'Main Issues Report' of a *Highland Wide Local Development Plan*.
12. Letter. Northern Constabulary. Area Command Performance for period April-June 2009.
13. Association of Scottish Community Councils (ASCC). Newsletter Spring 2009.
14. Email, SNH. Notification and Programme for *Changing Nature of Scotland Conference* – Perth 17/18th September.

15. The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust. Membership and AGM,
16. Highland Council. Re: *Highland Wide Local Development Plan*. Enclosure of Main Issues Report & Questionnaire with request for response on options.
17. Highland Council. Enclosing copy of Community Council Review Report & timetable for discussion.

Item 15 – The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust – Graham spoke about a small housing project located just off the A9 near Carrbridge that he had visited, which was planned and built by the Trust. He explained how well it fitted into the community and surroundings and said it was worth a visit if you were in the area.

(7) AOCB

(a) Community Volunteer Service (CVS)

Sylvia asked if the Council had received a letter from CVS asking for funding. This was a negative and Graham said he would make enquiries.

(b) Rapsons Bus Service to Lairg

With the arrival of the bus in Lairg timed to coincide with the departure of the train to Inverness and the arrival of the inbound one, it now means there is only around 45 minutes for people to spend in the town, which is not long enough. It was felt that before changing the times there ought to have been consultation. In addition, although you can board the train to Inverness for the hospital, there is no return bus service the same night. Bob Edwards would like feedback on how many people use the bus and how long they would wish to stay in Lairg. Sylvia said that she would also canvass Scourie and Durness to find out. It is apparent that there are a number of people from KLB who use the dentist in Lairg via the bus service. Cllr Rowantree pointed out that evidence of need would help in bringing any change or compromise and suggested it would be worth ascertaining just how many patients are listed. Graham agreed to follow this up.

(c) Pavement down to Mission

It was brought to the attention of the Chairman that the path down to the Mission was overgrown and a request for the grass be cut back. Graham agreed to speak with Henry to arrange this.

(d) Core Path Plan

Graham asked Cllr Rowantree what this plan entailed as concerns had been raised that some of those paths highlighted on the plans either go through or near property. Cllr Rowantree said that the plan was no guidance to fact and objections are dealt with on a case-by-case nature. It was unresolved.

(e) Robert McBeath Memorial

The formal open day for the Memorial is scheduled for 12 September at 1.00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

(f) Loch Innis Project

Graham attended a meeting regarding this project. It is part of the John Muir Trust/Duke of Edinburgh Awards Schemes and involves the schoolchildren working to enhance the habitat value of Loch Innis. This will see them cleaning up, monitoring erosion flow, habitat survey all with the aid of a scientist. Anyone who has any skills, or funding, that might be helpful in assisting this project please would they contact Stephanie Sutherland at the High School.

(g) Community Council Constitution

Graham confirmed that the maximum number of elected members to the Council is 10 and a new Constitution will need to be ratified to this effect.

(8) Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Community Council was scheduled for 7.00 p.m. on 6 October at Taigh Ceilidh.

The meeting ended at 8.10 p.m.

Approved Minutes of all Meetings can be found on the Kinlochberrie website: www.kinlochberrie.info