

# KINLOCHBERVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of Meeting held on 01.12.09 at Taigh Ceilidh

**Present:** Graham Wild (Chairman), John Mann (Vice Chairman), Christine Mackenzie (Treasurer), Mairi Eastcroft, Michael Otter, Angus Ross, Sylvia Mackay, Stuart McHugh,

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

### Agenda Items

#### (1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Murdo MacPherson, David Halpin (MOD Liaison)

#### (2) Minutes

Sylvia questioned Item (a) Submarine Incident under Matters Arising. Graham clarified that this is an outstanding item due to be addressed by David Halpin, at a future meeting, following concerns from local fishermen. The Minutes were then proposed for approval by John Mann, seconded by Angus Ross and duly approved.

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

##### (a) Patient Transport Service (PTS)

The meeting due to be held on 27 November which included discussion about patient transport, has been postponed until early December. Michael Otter will accompany Sylvia, who regularly attends this meeting.

##### (b) Problems with Deer

Following a letter to Reay Forest Estate the Head Keeper, David Allison, contacted Graham confirming that a large cull had been carried out over the last four years and will continue. He advised that they were not allowed to come to KLB to deal with deer here. Ian Sutherland and Cllr Rowantree agreed that only a person registered under a Section 10 would be permitted to shoot deer that are causing problems in gardens or around the village, and authorisation would be required from the landowner. It was suggested that contact be made to the Deer Commission to ascertain names of registered persons. **GW to action.** Graham reiterated the importance of completing Deer Incident Forms, available from the Garage and Advice Centre.

##### (c) Village Hall

With effect from February 2010 CC meetings will be held at this venue. The cost of hiring the hall is £10.00 per meeting, however, Graham thought that this might be negotiable and would speak to Denise. **GW to action.**

#### (4) Laxford Bridge Incident

Graham confirmed to the meeting the contact details for all insurance claims resulting from the closure/weight restriction of the bridge.

#### (5) Treasurer's Report

Christine reported £1037 in the bank account, £250 in the War Memorial account, which included £60 kindly donated from the first Whist Drive of the season, and £1000 for Christmas lights. She confirmed that the £250 agreed donation to CVS North had been made.

#### (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. Highland Council:

- local consultation in relation to longer-term options for the replacement of Post Bus services.
- letter advising of websites for comment on topics currently under consultation

2. **NHS Highland:**
  - flyer/booking form of launch on 2 December for the '**Towards a mentally flourishing Scotland Policy and Action Plan**'.
  - invitation to NHS Highland Review Meeting. 7 December, Raigmore Site.
  - November Team Update
3. **Fran Loots - JMT (emails):**
  - blog from Elgol Primary School
  - Scottish Parliament. A call for views on walking & cycling in Scotland.
4. **Army Scottish HQ Brigade.** Notification leaflets for Military Flying Activity 16-26 November.
5. **Andy Mackay:**
  - agenda etc for Ward Forum on 28.11.09 at KLB Hotel. Plus notes of last meeting.
  - request to identify person from within the CC to act as the TECS link or person liaison.
6. **NWSLHP, Liz Manson:**
  - agenda, etc and notes of last meeting for next LHP Meeting at Rhiconich on 3 December.
7. **SNH.** Loch Laxford SSSI and Laxford Moors SSSI - *Intention to denotify.*
8. **John Thurso MP.** Acknowledging notes taken by Michael at the PTS meeting in Ullapool on 12.10.09 and the MP's intention to press matters further as to the policy of the Government on this issue.
9. **Northern Community Justice Authority.** Introducing the service and enclosing latest Newsletter.
10. **Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd.** Re. Dounreay's Cultural Heritage, draft strategy available to view at [www.dounreay.com](http://www.dounreay.com).

## (7). AOCB

### (a) Condition of roads

Michael had been approached to raise the issue of the stretch of road from the KLB hotel junction to the main road. This is constantly wet due to run-off from adjacent properties. In icy weather it is especially dangerous and it is feared this will soon result in an accident. The meeting agreed and Graham said he would mention it to Henry along with another section also causing concern.  
**GW to action.**

### (b) Housing Trust

Sylvia reported that issues were being raised regarding the letting policy of Trust houses to local people. She felt clarification is needed on the criteria used when allocating houses as there seemed to be a discrepancy between local and non-local applicants. It was also felt that where extensive redecoration or maintenance was needed on empty properties before re-occupancy could take place, then redress should be sought from the outgoing residents. Inspections should be carried out from time to time of occupied properties. Graham agreed to contact the Trust for a copy of their allocation policy and Cllr Rowantree said he would also take this up on the Community's behalf.  
**Action GW and RR.**

### (c) Recycling

Graham has been in contact with Highland Council's Andy Hume regarding extra recycling facilities for KLB to include cardboard and plastic. Andy said this is something already on their agenda and that domestic blue bins for dry recycling will be coming in due course. Following on from this a member raised the issue of abandoned cars, and it was confirmed that this is also in hand. To make it cost-effective, once a sufficient number had been acquired they would be removed.

### (d) TECS Services

Members may have noticed the appalling condition of the entrance to the car park and advice centre. Graham had spoken to Henry on the morning of the meeting and he agreed to see to it. Sylvia confirmed at the meeting that this had in fact been done. Graham is the link with Henry and all enquires regarding work undertaken by TECS Services should be made via him.

**(e) Loch Clash**

Graham confirmed that following talks with Reay Forest, Dougal Lindsay, the Factor, is consulting with one of the Trustees with a view to gifting the land to the Community. Following on from this, an approach to Sir Ian Wood of the Wood Group was made in respect of the Community obtaining the small piece of land in their ownership. Graham met with Bill Mckenzie, who is acting on behalf of the Wood Group, he thinks it will be looked upon favourably and will get back to Graham in due course. If successful, then the only outstanding piece is that owned by Highland Council. We need to identify which part of the services at Highland Council it sits within and Graham will contact Andy Mackay to ascertain. **GW to action.**

**(f) Ward Forum**

KLB was privileged to host the latest Ward Forum the previous Saturday and a few items discussed are noted here. One of the main topics was Tourism with speakers from Visit Scotland, Highland Council Tourism, North Highland Tourism and HIE. The general consensus was that we pursue tourism as much as possible for this corner of the North West. With regard to this Graham felt that another approach to the Badcall Crofters in respect of creating a viewpoint would be beneficial in trying to resolve the differences and reach an agreement. The meeting concurred. **GW to action.**

It was confirmed that the police are always informed of licensed events at village halls, however, if the event is a bring-your-own then it is advisable to also let the police know well in advance of its happening. This is purely a precautionary measure and will help the police when considering manning levels. Graham will advise the Village Hall committee of this. **GW to action.**

It has been decided to hold a Sutherland Youth Forum next year, date to be determined. It will be totally youth orientated with a youth chair, agenda and participation. PC Sutherland advised that we talk to Esther Richards, the area representative for Scottish Youth Parliament, and Graham will let the school know. Aside from this, Murdo is pursuing the nomination of a high school pupil to attend Council meetings on behalf of the young people of Kinlochbervie. **GW and MM to action.**

**(g) Highland Council Budgets**

These are currently being discussed at various meetings and Cllr Rowantree outlined the time plan. Michael requested involvement at a community level is available and Cllr Rowantree agreed that this would be met where possible.

**(h) School Heating**

The question was raised as to why the heating for the high school was controlled from Inverness. This seemed an anomaly and Cllr Rowantree suggested that Graham pose this question to Hugh Fraser, the Director of Education. **GW to action.**

**(i) Patient Transport Car Trial**

Graham asked Cllr Rowantree when we could expect the car and service to start. It is understood that the three drivers are waiting to be trained simultaneously. Cllr Rowantree said he would chase.

**(8) Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Community Council was scheduled for 7.00 pm on 2 February 2010 in the Village Hall. There will be no meeting in January.

Graham thanked those members of the Committee who were re-elected for their input over the last year and to the newly elected members for their support. John returned thanks to Graham for all his time and effort. The meeting ended at 8.10 pm.

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