

# KINLOCHBERVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of Meeting held on 02.02.10 at The Village Hall

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

**Members of the public present:** One

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

Graham welcomed everyone to the first meeting of this New Year.

### Agenda Items

(1) Apologies

None.

(2) Minutes

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

(3) Matters Arising from the Minutes

(a) **Problems with Deer - Item 3(b)**

A reply had been received from The Deer Commission to Graham's letter of 21 December 09. It identified Don O'Driscoll as a contact in relation to the shooting of deer. Don had identified 12 animals that were in a poor state of health being undernourished and subsequently these were culled during daylight hours. Only animals in this category are targeted. Don does not feel inclined to shoot at night and Graham is looking at applying for a night licence for use by another authorised person. No new incidents of deer in the village had been received, however, Graham reiterated the importance for all occurrences to be reported. Forms are available for road traffic incidents and, once completed, these can be returned to PC Sutherland, the Garage or any committee member for onward transmission to The Deer Commission.

(b) **Village Hall - Item 3(c)**

The consensus of the meeting was that the new venue served the purpose well and Graham confirmed that Denise would invoice us periodically.

(c) **Housing Trust - Item 7(b) AOCB**

Cllr Rowantree advised the meeting that the Trust is awaiting the appointment of a replacement Chief Executive and it was agreed that once they were in post, clarification would be sought.

(d) **Ward Forum - Item 7(f) AOCB**

Due to the recent bad weather the forthcoming Ward Forum had been postponed from 30 January. The new date is 27 February in Lairg.

**(e) School Heating - Item 7(h) AOCB**

Graham will pursue this with Dr Ian Smith to see if he has received a response from Highland Council. The meeting agreed it was unfair that the school was billed for something over which it did not have total control. **GW to action**

**(4) Patient Transport Update**

Michael updated the meeting on progress. Jamie Stone MSP had arranged a meeting with Pauline Howie, Chief Executive of the Scottish Ambulance Service, and this is due to take place on 5 March in Tain. Michael and Sylvia will attend on behalf of the Community and Cllr Rowantree confirmed that he too would be present along with Linda Munro. Among items under discussion will be the 'criteria' aspect to use the transport and the lifting of the expense limit, something which John Thurso is also pursuing having written to Nicola Sturgeon. MO highlighted the email from Linda Kennedy, Head of Patient Transport Service (previously circulated to Committee), in which she intends to monitor closely the six-month patient transport car trial. MO feels it is important that we also monitor and record our findings. Graham was a little concerned over some of the wording used in Linda's email with particular reference to her use of the words 'volunteers' and 'retain'. It seems extraordinary that she wished to see volunteers feed into the car trial, which has a paid driver. Also, the word 'retain' when used in relation to the KLB Ambulance is ambiguous and could be taken in the wrong context. In addition, he still felt that lack of understanding in the SAS of the geographical nature of the area and its remoteness to Inverness needed to be addressed. Cllr Rowantree reiterated the need to demonstrate the importance of the car service, especially with impending budget cuts, and that it is imperative we know of any problems. It was agreed that anybody who does experience problems in obtaining hospital transport should let the Community Council know in order that it can monitor the situation more clearly.

**(5) Update on road problems during adverse weather conditions**

Sylvia raised the issue of lack of salt. Despite the sterling work carried out by the local road squads to grit and clear the roads within the Kinlochbervie area, further along the north coast this proved a very serious concern for her and the care workers on the ground when visiting clients. Cllr Rowantree fully supported this concern but pointed out that it was a nationwide problem and that the Highlands had fared a lot better than many other areas. On behalf of the elected members of the Constituency he gave a vote of thanks to the NWS Care Association and their efforts during the bad weather. At this point Cllr Rowantree gave his apologies and left the meeting.

Graham read out an email received from Neil Gillies, Director of TECS department. This was in response to an email sent by GW on 9 January in support of Cllr George Farlow's communication to Neil of 7 January. It thanked us for our positive comments on the way the local Roads Staff responded during the recent bad spell of weather and our comments on the lack of sufficient gritting and clearing equipment. It confirmed that the TECS Committee agreed to review the performance of operational services during bad weather and that the outcome will be reported to a future Committee. GW was aware of particularly bad areas, e.g. Inshegra and the Garbet and these were on Henry's agenda and will be addressed. Helpfully, MO produced photographs of the area in question around the Garbet and GW retained these for reference. GW asked that if there were any other areas of concern to let him know. John raised the issue of the junction at the bottom of Manse Road where it meets the peat road. **GW to action.**

Sylvia asked if anything was to be done about the surface of the road on the Brae that had been damaged by the accident before Christmas involving a lorry. **GW to action**

(6) **Laxford Bridge Incident**

Christine confirmed that claims from Norscot and the Fishselling Company had been submitted and they were awaiting a response. GW said he knew of one claim that had been refused. John Thurso is in full support and has written to the Minister on behalf of all. **GW to follow up with John Thurso.**

Sylvia asked whether the army had been approached to provide something locally in terms of good PR. **GW to speak to David Halpin.**

(7) **Update on Loch Clash**

GW outlined the situation regarding land at Loch Clash. Enquiries had been made to Highland Council, The Wood Group and Reay Forest regarding the possibility of having land in their ownership gifted to the Community. Reay Forest has agreed to donate two pieces, i.e. the picnic area and the slipway/access to the beach. This is being progressed through the KVCA to take advantage of its Charitable Status. GW met with Bill McKenzie who is acting on behalf of The Wood Group and he felt that what we were proposing looked promising and we await to hear further. In respect of the HCC land, Andy Mackay is liaising with the Council's Surveyor to identify exactly which piece(s) of land they own but again the indications look good. Christine has some drawings of the Loch Clash area which she will pass to Graham that might show exactly who owns what. **CM to action**

(8) **Treasurer's Report**

There is currently £629.55 in the Bank Account. The grant has been applied for which is approximately £1300.00 and the brochure is in profit.

(9) **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

**NWLHP:**

- Notes of Meeting held 3 December
- Papers for forthcoming meetings on 7.1.10 (Bettyhill) and 4.2.10 at Rhiconich
- Email with proposed leaflet regarding Midwifery Services in N&W Sutherland

**Highland Council:**

- Community Council Review. Reminder that responses to Phase 1 closes on 23 December
- Email from Gordon Fife with Weather Briefing
- George Farlow regarding NW Sutherland roads still blocked due to snow
- Andy Mackay. Change of date for next Ward Forum, now 27.02.10 at Lairg, plus notes of last meeting held in KLB.
- Email giving latest road report and preparing for the thaw
- Andy Mackay. Briefing Note on Sutherland Local Plan. Report of Examination 22 January 2010.
- George Farlow – email & attachments regarding **Fate of Assynt Care Centre**

Copy letter from **Jamie Stone** to Chief Exec. Scottish Ambulance Service requesting a meeting to include Cllr Robbie Rowantree and reps from KLB CC regarding patient transport. *Meeting subsequently scheduled for 5 March in Tain.*

**Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd** – December Newsletter with questionnaire on preserving its cultural heritage.

### **NHS Highland:**

- December & January Team Updates
- Email from Linda Kennedy (PTS) advising Patient car trial had started and her views on the service
- Letter advising of the upcoming Scottish Bowel Screening Programme
- Email notifying the Rehabilitation Consensus Development Event for North CHP Area

**Highland Community Care Forum** - advising of forthcoming meeting of Air Ambulance Consultation and inviting feedback/comments.

### **Highland Environmental Network (HEN)**

- Newsletter and January bulletin
- Notification of HEN Conference and AGM (6 March 2010 Inverness)

Letter from **Highlands & Islands Regional Labour MSPs** updating on their progress to improve broadband facilities for the Highlands & Islands and the need for the Community to keep making a case for a better broadband service.

**CSER Licensing Committee** – Agenda for next meeting to be held on 01.02.10.

**Cllr Drew Hendry** (Aird & Loch Ness) giving information about the Stagecoach “CoolRider” discount scheme for 16 & 17 year olds.

**SNH** – Winter 2009 magazine

## **(10) AOCB**

### **(a) Police Station**

Following on from the official opening of the Police Station in October, mention was made that the upper floor would be upgraded. This would possibly enable it to be used as an office for another service, e.g. the Ambulance crew as well as accommodation for relief police officers. GW followed this up with a letter to Inspector Latimer. A reply was received from Superintendent Julian Innes to the effect that it was being reviewed for possible shared services, but unfortunately it will not fall within this financial year. He will keep us updated.

### **(b) Geopark**

Murdo updated the meeting on the re-siting of the Shelley Collection from the East Coast. The Shelleys want the collection to be used in Assynt, but it is not clear whether they mean the Assynt Community Council area or anywhere on the West Coast within the Geopark. It is apparent that a custom built building would be required to house the collection due to its size. In order to make any case more viable it would be advisable to have a site in mind for said building. If successful, Loch Clash might be a consideration. It was suggested that for strength possibly Durness, KLB and Scourie could join forces in a bid to secure the collection for the north end of the Geopark. It was agreed that Murdo would put in writing our wish to see the collection somewhere at the northern end of the Geopark including KLB. **MM to take further and action**

**(c) PTS** – the Committee agreed that the member of the public present could address the meeting over his concerns and experience regarding the PTS. Michael said he would take his points to the forthcoming meeting with the Chief Executive of the SAS on 5 March.

### **(d) Police Station Public Open Day**

PC Sutherland advised the Committee of the date of the Public Open Day - 20 March - it will also pull in other emergency services including, if available, the helicopter service. GW asked the Committee to note this date in their diaries. **All to action**

**(e) Community Bus**

GW said the exact delivery date is to be confirmed but is scheduled for March and that the money to pay for it is available.

**(f) Village Hall**

The Refurbishment Committee has downsized the original plan for the hall and will be meeting with the architect on 12 February to discuss.

**(g) Football Pitch**

GW advised that the funding package is in its middle stages and that the pitch is to have new drainage and access.

**(h) Robert MacBeath Memorial**

GW reported that signs are available and contact will be made with the Tourist Board to progress.

**(i) Fishermen's Mission**

GW agreed to again approach the owner of the Mission to try to ascertain his intentions and timescale. **GW to action**

**(j) Wind Turbine**

Stuart noticed from the KLB Website that the planning application for the proposed Wind Turbine at KLB School had been withdrawn and wondered if anyone knew the reason why. It was reported to the meeting that this was due to three objections being received. Stuart asked whether the Council intended to pursue another site but nothing is known. Murdo agreed to discuss with Dr Ian Smith about what happens next. **MM to action**

**(k) Co-opting another member to the Committee**

It was proposed and agreed that Joan Mackay be co-opted to the Kinlochbervie Community Council and Joan will be invited to take her seat at the next meeting.

**(l) Item for next agenda**

Sylvia asked for Education Housing to be included as an agenda item for the next meeting. **EMC to action**

**(m) Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Community Council is scheduled for 7.00 pm on 2 March 2010 in the Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm.