

KINLOCHBERVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 02.03.2010 at The Village Hall

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

Also present: Robbie Rowantree (Highland Councillor), Elaine McHugh (Secretary)

Agenda Items

(1) Apologies

Apologies were received from PC Ian Sutherland.

(2) Minutes

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

(3) Matters Arising from the Minutes

(a) Problems with Deer – Item 3(a)

Don O'Driscoll had culled more deer suffering from the effects of the bad weather. Again, this was carried out during the day. Don is appealing to the community to be kept informed of any deer that appear malnourished or in a bad condition, so he can deal with them appropriately.

(b) Ward Forum – Item 3(d)

Following the postponement due to bad weather of the Ward Forum as reported in the last minutes, the date has again been put back. This delay is due to the Forum being themed on the Budget Implication for Highland Council and will be attended by the Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Budget Leader and Convenor. Cllr Rowantree advised of a Consultation Document that will be forwarded to all community councils by the end of the week that will be circulated to all committee members. Michael asked whether community councils would be able to give feedback and Cllr Rowantree confirmed this would be possible either by telephone or post.

(c) School Heating – Item 3(e)

Following Graham's meeting with Dr Ian Smith, it appears that the school do have some control over the heating, but Ian will look to see if more can be achieved.

(d) Road problems – Item 5

Graham confirmed that the drainage problems discussed under Item 5 at the last meeting are on Henry's list for attention.

(e) Laxford Bridge Incident – Item 6

Graham read out the latest reply from John Thurso who is still pressing for a response to his letter to the Minister re compensation. Sylvia enquired as to whether the approach to the army had been made in respect of some PR work. **GW confirmed he would speak to David Halpin.**

(f) Loch Clash – Item 7

Reay Forest has been provided with the contact details of the solicitors who will assist in raising the official paperwork. A drawing of the area had been requested by Andy Mackay to ascertain just what the Council owned and this will be emailed across. No further response from The Wood Group as yet so Graham will chase. **GW to action.**

Whilst the land from Reay Forest will be donated, inevitably a small cost will be incurred in raising the necessary documents of transfer through the solicitors. Obviously, there will need to be a right of access and Graham will look into this. **GW to action.**

(g) Police Station Open Day – Item 10(a) AOCB

Graham confirmed the open day will be on 20 March with all services attending, i.e. ambulance, Mountain Rescue, coastguard, police dogs. The Mountain Rescue wishes to allocate a defibrillator within the KLB/Durness/Scourie catchments and would like to recruit four people from the area to train to use it. If anyone in the community is interested in becoming a backup for other services please let Graham know. The question was raised as to where the defibrillator would be kept, bearing in mind that its use depends on being available quickly.

(h) Robert McBeath Memorial Signs – Item 10(h) AOCB

Following several phone calls Graham has gone full circle back to Colin Simpson, the Highland Council Tourism Officer who will contact the appropriate person that deals with the provision of signs. He is also looking at funding for these. The interpretative board is awaiting final production and installation is imminent.

(i) Fishermen’s Mission – Item 10(i) AOCB

Graham said he would see Donald Morrison this week. **GW to action.**

(j) Wind Turbine – Item 10(j) AOCB

No further information available, not known whether revised plans have been re-submitted.

(4) Education Housing

It was felt by the community council that we should write to the Education Housing Trust to get a clear picture of their letting policy, e.g. how long, criteria for tenancy and whether they have it in mind to sell off any of the houses in question. Cllr Rowantree agreed a letter would be a good idea and that we should write to the Director of Education, Hugh Fraser, with a copy to Graham Nichols, the Area Education Manager. Graham told the meeting that Ian Smith had been approached by a gentleman who is currently undergoing training for the Ambulance Service asking if it would be possible to rent one of the houses if he cannot find anything suitable privately. He is due to become resident in the area shortly.

(5) Treasurer’s Report

There is currently £644.79 in the Bank Account, £15.00 having been received from Rogart Vets for the brochure. Graham mentioned that the flyer contained in the brochure was being updated for corrections and will be re-published.

(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:

NSPCC – Invitation to support Helpline and become a campaign partner.

Sutcliffe Play Scotland with brochure showing community play equipment

Highland Council:

- ePlanning News February 2010
- Andy Mackay with notice of further date change for Ward Forum – now 27 March at Lairg

Wicksteed brochure for play equipment

NWSLHP:

- papers for next meeting at Bettyhill on 4 March 2010
- notes of meeting held on 4 February 2010

Headquarters 51 (Scottish) Brigade. Notification of forthcoming Military Flying Activity: 20 March to 2 April 2010.

Regarding the last item of correspondence, Graham will speak to David Halpin to ascertain that the services are properly briefed on the nature of the local roads. **GW to action.**

(7) AOCB**(a) Geopark**

An email was received from Ronnie Lansley requesting a meeting with regard to future of the Geopark. Murdo will be attending but support would be welcome. It was felt that a united front between KLB, Durness and Scourie was needed in respect to the siting of the Shelley collection to ensure that the interest is contained within the northern end of the Geopark. Cllr Rowantree explained the situation regarding funding the Geopark and Highland Council/SRDP (Scottish Rural Development Programme).

(b) Patient Transport

Michael and Sylvia will be attending the meeting on 5 March with the Chief Executive of the SAS. To this end Michael had circulated previous to the meeting an outline agenda of items he considers needs addressing. The meeting discussed these and all were in agreement. The meeting heard of three patients who had experienced problems and these would be cited although no names would be revealed. After lengthy discussion it was generally felt that a strong engagement between the PTS and community was needed. Sylvia asked it if was possible to obtain a copy of the training required for the patient driver post. The meeting could see no reason why not and Sylvia said she would ask. **SM to action**

(c) Ceilidh House

The Day Centre appeared not to have received a copy of the last Minutes. Graham said he would see that they receive one. If Christine is agreeable we could email a copy for her to print off. **GW to action.**

(d) Community Company

The meeting asked for confirmation as to the status of the Community Company. Graham confirmed the company was fully operational and ready to become active when the need arose.

(e) Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 7.00 pm on 6 April 2010 in the Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 8.15 pm.

Approved Minutes of all meetings can be found on the Kinlochbervie website: www.kinlochbervie.info