

KINLOCHBERVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 02.11.10 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, Angus Ross

Members of the public present: None

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

Agenda Items

(1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Michael Otter.

(2) Minutes (05.10.10)

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

(3) Matters Arising from the Minutes (05.10.10)

(a) Patient Transport – Item (3)(a)

In his absence, Graham read out to the meeting an email received from Michael regarding his contact with the PTA Office. In essence, due to Linda Kennedy's prolonged absence from work, the meeting with SAS next week has had to be postponed but Michael was assured by Milne Weir, the General Manager, that no decision would be taken until the meeting had taken place. Michael requested that everyone with information about his or her experience under the pilot scheme would let either himself or Sylvia know.

(b) Faster Broadband Project – Item (5) Correspondence & Item (6)(d)

Cllr Rowantree said that HIE and other bodies are bidding to secure the Highlands as one of the areas chosen for the super fast broadband project pilot. This is on the basis of supplying fibre optic cable to core communities but only some areas will get it. This pilot project is in addition to the Community's bid to Highland Council for LEADER funding to provide faster broadband.

(c) Weight Restriction over Struie – Item (5) Correspondence

Cllr Rowantree confirmed that this restriction would last at least six months.

(d) Football pitch/grass cutting/KLB High School – Item (3)(b)

Sylvia raised the issue of the letter from John Macdonald and it's negative stance, she felt it was not acceptable just to say that nothing can be done. Cllr Rowantree was surprised that he had not been copied in to John's original letter and requested a copy be sent to him. **Elaine to action.** Cllr Rowantree to take up on behalf of the Community Council. Sylvia also pointed out that provision of replacement fitness equipment might be achieved through fundraising, while purchased through Highland Council. Cllr Rowantree suggested that remote schools throughout the Highlands should form an allegiance that would see them all being run in a common fashion, acting in concert, which would make them more effective than standing alone. Christine said she would mention this to Gary Sutherland who is on the committee of the Parent Teacher Association. The Playing Field Association had given thanks to Duncan and Gavin for their efforts in cutting the grass.

(f) Bench at Droman – (tem (3)(c)

The repair to the remaining picnic bench had been made. Graham mentioned the placing and dedication of a new replacement bench as a memorial to Bridget. A ceremony will take place on Saturday 6 November at 11.00 am, followed by refreshments at the KLB Hotel.

(g) Sheep – Item (3)(f)

Graham still to speak to the crofter.

(h) Core paths – Item (3)(g)

Funding has been agreed for the provision of 15 waymarkers for the peat road trail along with some money to enable us to pay for the labour. 75 posts are also underway to provide a waymarked trail to enhance Rubha na Leacaig point (behind Bervie stores) but funding for labour is not available as it is not a core path. Bid for funding for Loch Innes path is before HC Committee.

Graham read out a second email from Michael regarding the work on the Loch Innes path and his conversation with the contractors currently working for the JMT. Having read the contents Graham said it was a question of whether we go down this route or use local labour. Sylvia asked if this could be a project taken forward by new Community Project Co-ordinator. It was suggested it could be.

(i) Winter gritting – covered under Item (3)(I)

A reply had been received from Stuart Bell, TECS Services, who confirmed that HC have the same winter policy and level of resources as they had last year, so the service level will be unchanged. However they will be closely monitoring salt usage following last year's shortages. Sylvia advised the meeting that the information previously received on the reduction of gritting times was a mistake.

(h) Drainage/Pavement from KLB hotel – Item (6)(e)

Work has been carried out to address the water drainage problem. An engineer is due to look at the feasibility of moving the cattle grid from the road south of the Council depot to the hotel area to help with the sheep problem and in turn assist in carrying a drain beneath. On the provision of a pavement Graham asked Cllr Rowantree if he would input on this or should we continue to pursue with Henry. It was agreed for Graham to liaise with Henry who will need to feed back to TECS for the work to be considered.

(i) Geopark – Item (6)(f)

Stuart was unable to make the last Geopark meeting but ran through the outcome via the minutes, with emphasis on the Penny Cousins' Report. This report was to look at the future of the Geopark both locally and Scotland as a whole. In summary, the report criticises the inefficiency of having independent parks and suggests amalgamating individual parks under a national Scottish one. This would mean a cost of £500K to run it and the concern is where the funding will come from. Murdo had also read the report and felt that if the Geopark was run from somewhere central, then there was a danger of each individual park only getting one part time person each. Whilst there is logic in not duplicating administration services by each park, there would be loss of control. Durness have submitted a response and Stuart read out part of this. It was suggested that KLB write in support of it, however, Stuart was reluctant to do this saying that without representation at the next meeting, due to other commitments, and not producing our own response might be seen as apathetic and riding on the back of Durness's response. It was agreed following discussion to email our own response. **SGM to action**

(4) Treasurer's Report

Christine reported £3,051.00 in bank account, including £1,846.00 in Christmas lights fund. The War Memorial fund had not changed and stood at £215.00. The Wreath is with Christine for collection. Sylvia asked if any work needed doing at the War Memorial site, Christine agreed to find out and if so obtain a list.

(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.

Northern Constabulary – Sutherland and Easter Ross Monthly Report

NHS Highland Newsletter –September Team Update

Highland Council:

- Andy Mackay re Scottish Community Council's Annual National Conference, 20 November, Glasgow University.
- Stuart Bell (TECS) re winter gritting

Gary Sutherland – re fortnightly refuse collections/kerbside recycling (*refer to AOCB*)

The Crown Estate – Notice of Caithness and Orkney Information Days on wave and tidal power.

KLB High School – Invitation to Members to attend the Robert McBeath Project – Vancouver Evening.

NWS LHP – Notes of meeting held 07.10.10 plus paperwork for 4 November's meeting at Bettyhill.

SNH – Classification of Foinaven as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for Golden Eagle

Scottish Water – Invitation to public meeting in Inverness, Tuesday 16 November

(6) Constitution

As stated at the last meeting, the Constitution was due to be discussed, however, Cllr Rowantree pointed out that Highland Council were in the process of looking at Community Council boundaries and functions, hence a new model constitution is forthcoming. It was agreed, therefore, to wait for the new model.

(7) AOCB

(a) Refuse Collection/Recycling

Graham read out the letter received from Gary Sutherland. Gary is concerned over the report in the Northern Times that Highland Council is to introduce fortnightly collections from April 2012. He feels that until a kerbside collection of recyclable refuse is in place in our region fortnightly refuse collections should not be implemented. Cllr Rowantree said that this issue had been raised by a number of people and he read out a letter from Dr Colin Clark, who is head of HC recycling department, about the service in which Dr Clark refers to a report that Cllr Rowantree will send to Elaine. Cllr Rowantree explained how the recycling system would work, i.e. weekly but alternating between non-recyclable (general household waste) and recyclable rubbish. He assured the meeting that no fortnightly collection will be implemented until the new kerbside initiative is rolled out. Stuart asked why there was no central recycling for plastic and cardboard in KLB alongside the existing glass, paper etc. Cllr Rowantree said that would be superseded by this new system. GW to respond to Gary along lines as outlined above. **GW to action**

(b) AGM Draft Minutes

John Mann asked the committee if they felt it appropriate to raise, at this meeting, a matter from the AGM draft minutes. John, himself, felt that matters arising from the AGM Minutes should be held over for the next AGM and this was agreed along with the non-publication of the AGM draft minutes outside the committee until that time.

Stuart said that a community resident had approached him since the last general meeting asking why members of the committee were not always mentioned by name along with those referred to. It was pointed out, quite rightly, by the resident that it is a public meeting and anyone could attend, and if they did they would know who had said what. Whilst there might be times when it would not be appropriate to mention specific names, Stuart felt that as elected representatives we are accountable to the community and should be prepared to stand by our comments.

At this point, Graham asked the attendees if, as a committee, there were happy with his chairmanship. The answer was affirmative from all members present.

(c) Community Project Co-ordinator post

A suitable candidate has been found and a meeting with Charles Findlay, HIE Account Manager, is arranged for Wednesday to discuss the expenses claims procedure. Sylvia asked which projects the postholder had been given. Graham outlined these and confirmed a meeting he had had with the postholder to discuss. Sylvia asked about a timescale for meetings to discuss progress. It was agreed that a meeting of the Directors needed to take place to discuss projects, project leader/groups, and a dedicated postholder manager to give cohesion.

Cllr Rowantree set out what he felt was the way ahead; what does the community wish KLB to look like in ten years time, to identify maybe only one scheme that will cover a set demographic of the community. He also said that intense meetings with the postholder were needed for the first few months. Christine pointed out that committees needed to be in place to support a project(s) and that we need to monitor progress and have time lines. Stuart suggested a public meeting to involve the community in selecting a project and it was agreed to call a community meeting for 16 November at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall to introduce the postholder and throw open to the floor the projects on offer and ask for other suggestions. The meeting is to be publicised locally and on the website along with a piece in the KLB spot of the Northern Times. Meeting agreed a basis of the wording and Stuart to work up. **SGM to action**

(d) Old Pier, Loch Clash

Christine raised the issue of the condition of the retaining sea wall, which was in an extremely bad state of repair and a danger to safety. Cllr Rowantree asked if the Harbour Board managed it and to contact Tony Usher highlighting it as extremely dangerous. **GW to action**

(e) Old Harbour Lighting

Murdo asked if it was possible for the old harbour to benefit from fewer lights as the amount had doubled since he has been living here. Cllr Rowantree pointed out that light level was monitored and it was a health and safety issue. John also cited KLB High School and asked if there is there statutory legislation. Cllr Rowantree said it depended on the level of access.

(8) Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 7 December 2010.

The Meeting ended at 8.40pm.

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