

KINLOCHBERVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 03.05.11 at The Village Hall

Present: Graham Wild (Chairman), John Mann (Vice Chair),
Christine Mackenzie (Treasurer), Joan Mackay, Murdo MacPherson, Stuart McHugh
Angus Ross

Also present: George Farlow (Highland Councillor), Fiona Donaldson (Community Project Co-ordinator), Elaine McHugh (Secretary)

Agenda Items

(1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Michael Otter, Sylvia Mackay, Mairi Eastcroft, Cllr Linda Munro, PC Ian Sutherland

(2) Minutes (05.04.11)

Item (3)(c) Stuart was unsure that this had in fact been attended to. **Graham agreed to confirm.** Cllr Farlow brought attention Item (3)(e) confirming that the increase in mileage rates is a UK wide increase covering all sections of public services. However, he pointed out with the exception of Highland Councillors who are awaiting the new Government to verify it. Following these issues the Minutes of the last meeting were proposed for approval by John and seconded by Stuart and duly approved.

(3) Matters Arising from the Minutes (05.04.11)

(a) High School facilities – Item (3)(a)

Fiona confirmed that information on the current rates and facilities of the fitness room had been sent to Sylvia, Jasmin and Kirsty at the beginning of April. Since the last meeting Jasmin has agreed the information was, as she understood it to be. Jasmin, Kirsty and Fiona will now take forward.

Action: JC/KH/FD

(b) Broadband – Item (6)(e)

Cllr Farlow pointed out that KLB was not alone and that all villages on the west coast are suffering low speeds. John thought we were looking more at improvements to a high speed broadband. Graham confirmed that remote areas, through Avanti, were getting new satellites, e.g. Altanrynie, Ardmore. Stuart thought the approach to Cllr Munro was because we were looking for funding streams. Cllr Farlow said that HIE gave a presentation earlier this year looking at improving coverage.

Subsequent to the meeting the Cllr Munro reported that she is awaiting a response from Vicki Nair Head of E Government in respect of Broadband support for the community and will email Elaine as soon as she hears from back from her.

(c) Ceilidh House – Item (3)(d)

Graham confirmed that funding had been secured for the foreseeable future. The NHS had decided against taking over two of the rooms, as they were unable to contribute to the costs of a erecting a conservatory in their place. It was agreed that there was a need to look at the Ceilidh House becoming self-financing.

(d) Sheep in village – Item (6)(b)

Awaiting a reply to a letter sent to the Crofters Commission. However, Graham has since visited Droman and advised that the sheep mess has been cleared and the feeding pots placed behind the fence. He also reported that the Council had made a good job in creating a proper path to Bridget's seat and Andy Marshall, who had accompanied Graham, wished to thank the Community Council for getting the job done.

- (e) Water quality – Item (3)(b)** - The letter from the Community Council to Cllr Munro setting out our concerns has been sent. Subsequent to the meeting Cllr Munro reported that The Highland Council has no remit to test for Chlorine Levels and it would appear the community needs to work with Scottish Water or pay for private testing. She will wait to hear the outcome of Graham's enquires before taking this any further. **Action: GW**

(f) Picnic benches - Item (6)(i)

Graham read out an email from Michael in which he reported he had repaired and maintained one of the benches at Droman and setting out his recommendations regarding the remainder. Stuart asked for a note of thanks to Michael is minuted. Graham had bought paint for the benches at the picnic sites and this could also be used for Bridget's bench. Christine confirmed there is money in the picnic site fund for paint. Tommy would be willing to carry out the works, including the bench at the lay-by adjacent to Bridge Cottage, but would require help. Murdo suggested school pupils as a source of labour, although this could not happen until after the exams. Graham asked the meeting if it was prepared to accept this help and all agreed.

(g) Signs for the community - Item (6)(h)

Matt Dent is away until beginning of June. Stuart, Graham and Johnnie Robb walked the Loch Innes peat road path to decide where to locate trail posts. During the walk they decided upon a slightly different route to incorporate points of interest one of which leads up to a high ridge where the view is spectacular. It was agreed that the Community Council would fund a bench at a convenient spot on the walk where the ground is grassy and level. Christine to organise this through her supplier. It was also agreed to treat the bench rather than stain it, for ease of maintenance. Mention was made of an Interpretative panel, and the meeting agreed this was something to think about for Graham to discuss with Matt Dent on his return. **Action: GW**

(h) Ward Discretionary Budget – Item (6)(j)

Still awaiting decision on our application, outcome of which will determine the progress with Loch Clash. Scottish Elections adding to delay.

(i) 2014 Homecoming – Item (6)(k) - Graham still to action

- (j) Noticeboard – Item (6)(d) - Graham still to action**, will progress on next trip to Inverness.

(k) Migdale – Item (6)(g)

Cllr Farlow mentioned a Public Open Event to be held on Wednesday 8th June. Graham asked if Community Councils would be invited. Cllr Farlow felt it was open to all.

(l) Community Project Co-ordinator – Item (6)(l)

At an earlier meeting, Graham did say that Fiona would come along to each Community Council meeting to give a formal report, this is rectified from this meeting as per Item 5 on Agenda.

(4) Treasurer's Report

Christine reported a balance of £2,297.00. Payment to Johnnie Robb for erecting the posts will be reimbursed from Matt Dent's department.

(5) Community Project Co-ordinator's Report

Fiona distributed a copy of the monthly summary she produces for the Community Company, which covers her work over that period and includes meetings attended, people met, research, assistance provided. She ran through various initiatives.

KLB Growth Plan – Fiona distributed copies to meeting. This was requested by HIE and forms part of Fiona's remit. It was initially put together in January and will be posted on the website with copies placed in the shop. Fiona wished to pass it by the Community Council before proceeding. The focus of the Plan is on six projects, those either up and running or well down the road, or from feedback from surveys. Response from the surveys was not huge, around 10-15% of community responded, therefore, as it is not possible to second-guess what the rest want, it was progressed with the information that was available. This plan fits into the Sutherland Local Plan, which in turn fits into the Highland Wide Plan.

Newsletter – Again this was circulated. Fiona will ask Gary to put on the website. Following an email from Nigel Brett Young, Fiona has included an advert for a job vacancy for a Youth Worker for KLB.

Fiona stressed that if people want to use her they need to do so now as from November her post may cease to be .

Graham explained that the Community Company, which employs Fiona through Leader funding, was due an AGM and a provisional date for this was agreed as 15 June. **GW to provisionally book Village Hall with Denise.**

Stuart asked how the Company arrived at which projects to take forward. Fiona explained that a public meeting was held and from the suggestions put forward a list of projects raised. Following this a newsletter at Christmas was sent out listing the suggested projects and feedback requested. Over 100 cards were sent out but only 19 responses received. People were asked to prioritise the projects shown. Fiona collated these taking into accounts people's comments and information from a generic survey by Ewan Snedden for HIE. From all this came the decision on which projects to list for taking forward. Neither Fiona nor the Community Company had any personal input into the list, the choice being made from the responses received. Fiona pointed out that there is a core of people who contribute to projects and the community as a whole, but that core is only a minute proportion of the community and they often have other priorities especially at this time of year, e.g. lambing.

Charles Findlay (HIE) visited Alun Owen and Fiona to talk about the Growth Plan which feeds into the HIE plan. Fiona took him on a tour of Loch Clash and set out the vision, which he was very interested in. She also took to OSM and Sheigra to the pony trekking centre and back to village hall. However, he was amazed at the lack of people, commenting it was like a ghost town. While discussing the shortfall of funding for the maintenance of the football pitch he said he might be able to help out with the shortfall. This might also bode well for Loch Clash. Graham had spoken to Ann Mackay who confirmed that information regarding the upgrade of the pitch had been finalised and it will be sent out within the area asking for help with funding.

(6) 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.

Highland Council:

- Weekly Planning Application lists
- Documents regarding the *Development Plan Scheme – Spring 2011* and *Onshore Wind Energy – Draft Supplementary Guidance*. Both available at www.highland.gov.uk/developmentplans

NWS LHP – Notes of meeting held on 7 April 2011 and paperwork for next

TPAS Scotland/Highland Small Communities Housing Trust - notification of joint event 9/10 June in Aviemore

Fire Brigades Union Scotland – FBU’s response to the Scottish Government Consultation on the future of the Fire & Rescue Service in Scotland.

Signs and Designs, Caithness – promotional material for products.

CSER – Agenda for next Planning Applications Committee on 26 April in Tain

RSPB Scotland – *The Nature of Scotland Awards* – invitation for nominations

(7) AOCB

(a) Community Council Constitution and Guidelines

Stuart asked if Andy Mackay could come along to a future meeting to explain in more detail. Cllr Farlow agreed along with suggesting the Council discuss and adopt the new Constitution at the June meeting.

(b) Geopark

Following a public meeting in Scourie, it was supposedly thought that KLB was not interested in siting the Geocentre and Shelley Collection in their area as it was felt that they had other ongoing projects.

Stuart expanded on this following a telephone discussion with Scilla Aitchison of consultants Phillips Aitchison. At the initial meetings it was felt that the Shelley collection could be split up to benefit all areas within the Geopark. However, following discussions with Museum Scotland it has now been realised that the collection needs to be housed as a whole with parts being made available on loan to the various communities. As KLB had other ongoing projects the concern was that any funding obtained for the Geopark Centre would be in direct opposition and could jeopardise funding being pursued by the Community Company for its own projects.

Cllr Farlow stated that at the next Steering Group meeting, Phillips Aitchison are to present a summary of their feasibility studies. A full report will be sent to Steering Group Representatives on the Community Councils to take to their meetings for discussion and endorsement. Cllr Farlow extended an invitation to Fiona to attend the next Steering Group meeting to be held in KLB.

(c) Oldshoremore/machair

Graham said he had received complaints regarding quad bikes being ridden for recreational use on OSM beach and surrounding area. The local policeman is aware of this and endeavouring to address. Graham will make the Osbornes also aware. **Action: GW**

(d) Directional Signs – Sandwood Bay

Stuart raised this on behalf of community resident Angela de Boer. She feels the Oldshoremore sign at the Beach Road junction, pointing towards the beach, should be removed and requested clearer signs to include directions to Sandwood Bay. Tourists are very confused and continue down to OSM beach looking for Sandwood Bay. Cllr Farlow said that Scourie CC had also mentioned the lack of signs and wished to encourage people to come up this way and asked about brown signs. Cllr Farlow is to ask Colin Simpson to look at all the signage from Skiach to OSM/Sandwood bay. **Action: Cllr Farlow**

(e) Brochure inserts

Advertisers were initially charged £15.00 for an insert. Stuart would like to see this change to £5.00 per year and canvassed the feeling of the meeting. Christine confirmed that there is nothing in brochure fund at the moment and there will be a time when a complete reprint is needed. The consensus was that £5.00 was too cheap and the meeting agreed on £10.00 working on April as the beginning of the financial year. Thanks were made to Tommy who has been distributing the brochure widely.

(f) Community Energy Scotland

Melanie Macrae of CES an organisation that advises on renewable energy options either for personal use or business is coming to KLB provisionally on 11/12 May. She was primarily coming to visit Fiona but it would be an opportunity for others who are interested. Christine expressed an interest.

(8) Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 7 June 2011

The Meeting ended at 8.20 pm