

KINLOCHBERVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 04.05.10 at The Village Hall

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

Members of the public present: None

Also present: Elaine McHugh (Secretary)

Agenda Items

(1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Robbie Rowantree, Joan Mackay.

(2) Minutes (06.04.10)

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

(3) Matters Arising from the Minutes (06.04.10)

(a) PR/Goodwill work by Army – Item (3)(a)

Graham checked the boundary situation regarding the access way to Oldshoremore beach with Richard Osborne and he is happy for such a project to be undertaken. Graham will contact David Halpin with this proposal for him to take forward. It was suggested that the stepped walkway, where much of it is under sand, could be raised to a higher level. It was noted that to keep people from veering off the stepped path, to take a short cut around it, a fence be erected. A further suggestion of attaching the steps to the rockface could incur health and safety implications. **GW to action.**

(b) Ward Forum – Item (3)(b)

The theme of the last Forum was Education, Culture and Sport with an update on budget implications which Graham briefly ran through. It should be remembered that the budget for 2010/11 is agreed. However, for years 2011/12 and 2012/13 cutbacks are inevitable and proposals on these for consultation have been written. An area of concern is the closure of public libraries. Hugh Fraser, Director of ECS, said no decision had been made and certainly not as reported recently in the newspapers. There is an annual Ward Discretionary budget (WDB) of £50K that is available to local communities. The total contribution to date is £4,306.00 and Graham read out where this money had been allocated. He also highlighted an area that might attract future WDB money - the Thursday Club Bus Group. If we obtain a Section 22 then we can run the bus as a public service on a route, which would mean that passengers over 60 years old could use their bus pass. Any funding obtained from the WDB would enable a subsidy for those fare paying passengers under 60. Another area for assisted funding is the KLB sports pitch whereby the Council could undertake the grass cutting on a fortnightly basis. The Trustees of the football club/pitch committee do allow the school use of the pitch so there is a connection to the Council. Graham will contact the person responsible for grass cutting services. Mention was made that some years ago the Janitor at the High School carried out this work and would he be willing to take this on again? Graham to investigate. **GW to action both points.**

Also mentioned is the closure of the Struie from 12-18 May for tree felling operations.

(c) Geopark – Item (3)(c)

Another meeting is scheduled for Friday 14 May in Lochinver and will probably focus on the administration of the Geopark and its survival. Murdo, Graham and Stuart will attend the meeting. The situation for Geopark has changed somewhat with the departure of the Geopark Officer making the running of it unsure in the medium term. Although the Green Card has been obtained from Geopark network, funding is still an issue. SNH is providing money for a consultant whose remit is to look at ways of procuring funding to support the work of the Geopark to secure its future. There is also an issue with the feasibility study for the housing of the Shelley collection and the location of a Geocentre. Murdo will draft a letter or email for the meeting on 14 May outlining concerns over the Shelley Collection and Geocentre. Graham stated that all community councils will be fully involved from now on and that Geopark is aware of dissatisfaction among CCs over the siting of the exhibition. In respect of the Geocentre, the general feeling is that there should be separate venues covering all areas north to south. Geopark is not about one single area, each area should be promoted with communication throughout, and a single centre does not address this. It was also felt that community events are not just for tourists; they should be seen by and promoted to locals encouraging them to get involved. **MM to action.**

(d) Loch Clash – Item (3)(d)

Graham Good, the representative from Don Fishing is due to visit KLB on Monday 10 to discuss donation of area of land at Loch Clash owned by them. To date nothing to report on the on progress of Reay Forest land transfer. Graham advised that plans were afoot to move the oil tank from Loch Clash to Loch Incharde beside a small jetty for the tankers to moor up. A meeting is forthcoming with Highland Harbours that our local Councillor, George Farlow, will attend and report back to the Community Council. If this project goes ahead Highland Council Harbours would no longer use Loch Clash and they are happy for us to utilise the area and Tony Usher has said he is willing to help where he can.

(e) Police Open Day – Item (3)(e)

A letter of thanks was sent to and an appreciative reply received from Chief Inspector Matthew Reiss.

(f) Fishermen’s Mission – Item (3)(f)

Following Graham’s further meeting with the owner there is nothing positive to report. In essence the Mission will be ready when it’s ready.

(g) Robert McBeath Memorial Signs – Item (3)(g)

Graham confirmed the Interpretative Board is in place and details are on the website. Andy Mackay is pursuing the provision of tourist directional signs to the war memorial site and will come back to Graham. Concern was raised that cars are crossing and possibly parking on the white stones. It was agreed that some large rocks are needed to stop this. Stuart wondered if Ledmore quarry might provide these in white to match the stones. **GW to ring Richard.**

(4) Treasurer’s Report

Christine reported that there was £1,827.73 in the Bank Account along with £1,309.00 in the Christmas Lights fund, which was boosted by £255.00 raised at the recent car boot sale.

(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:

Highland Council:

- Email from George Farlow with link to website for Sutherland Local Development Plan
- Letter enclosing copy of The Highland Development Plan Scheme Spring 2010
- Booklet *Budget Brief 2010 – 2011* plus copy of *Community Council Review Report by Corporate Manager*
- Notification of road closure – B9176 Struie Road from 0600 hrs on 12 May until 2000 hrs on 18 May.

Fran Loots - JMT:

- Email with attachment - *Fruitful Manifesto – Let Scotland Blossom*
- Blog re plastic litter/beach clearance

SMP Playgrounds – Quarterly Parish and Community Councils Newsletter advertising play equipment

CSER – Agendas for Licensing Committee & Licensing Board Meetings on 27.04.10

NWS LHP – Paperwork for next meeting to be held at Bettyhill on 6 May 2010

Letter from Jennie Corbett, Youth Worker, NW Youth Initiative. Request to paint portacabin for use as Youth Café and for donation towards it – see item below under AOCB.

Graham mentioned that the Development Plan consultation document can be found on HCC's website at: www.highland.gov.uk/developmentplans.

(6) AOCB

(a) Helicopter Emergencies

A nighttime incident occurred recently with a request for emergency transport by the helicopter. However, due to non-function of the lights at the Helipad it was unable to land and in fact did not set off. Graham made enquiries and ascertained that the lights are automatically switched on and it is the responsibility of the NHS to carry this out. This could have far reaching effects as the helicopter will only land if the area is illuminated. Therefore it is vital that the lights are in good working order and switched on when needed.

Since the meeting it has been further established that automatic switch on is not correct, the operation of the lights can be carried out at the harbour and Graham is to speak to the local electrician.

(b) Ceilidh House Lights

Another issue of concern is the outside lights at Ceilidh House, which are continually on. This had been reported as high priority several weeks ago. Sylvia agreed to bring this up at Thursday's LHP meeting at Bettyhill. **SM to action.**

(c) Patient Transport

Stuart reported his concern over the recent discharge from hospital of a local resident that having been admitted as an emergency and taken by ambulance to Raigmore was unable to secure transport home. This resulted in the hospital arranging a private taxi at considerable cost to the NHS. The question was raised as to whether enquiries were made to the availability of the KLB hospital car by the hospital and if this was unobtainable could not an Inverness hospital car be provided for journey. Sylvia said the use of private taxis had been brought up regularly with a request for

Raigmore to provide costings of taxi journeys but nothing had been provided. However, she agreed to bring it up again at Thursdays NWS LHP meeting. **SM to action.**

(d) Youth Café

A letter to the Council had been received from Jennie Corbett, the newly appointed Youth Worker, North West Youth Initiative, outlining her proposals for utilising the Portacabin to the right of the Village Hall as a Youth Café. Her first job, with the help of the youngsters, was to paint the Portacabin a more inviting colour and to this end she sought the approval of the Council and also whether it would be willing to make a donation to assist the project. Having read the letter the members had no objections and following consultation with the Treasurer it was agreed that the Community Council would donate £250.00. Jennie also set out her plan for involving youths in the Community Council and for representatives to attend meetings. This is something that the Council has been keen on for a long time and Murdo agreed to bring it up at school and to speak to the current head girl and boy to see if they are involved with their local Council. **MM to action.**

(e) Tourist Board

The Tourist Board wishes to make more of the fact that tourist information is available in KLB. At the present time all tourist literature is housed in the Advice Centre and information given on a voluntary basis. The question was asked whether the Board would pay for it to be more formalised. It was thought not. It was always felt that should acquisition of all the areas at Loch Clash materialise then this would be the ideal place for tourist promotion. At that stage we can then engage in trying to procure funding for tourist promotion.

(f) Car Wrecks

Graham has approached Henry about the ownership of the land and he will make enquiries upon his return from holiday.

(g) Livestock problem

A letter has been sent to Campbell Stewart (HCC) re problem of sheep/cattle and a reply is awaited. No response has been received from individual crofters concerned.

(h) Specsavers

Concern was raised that Specsavers had decided not to continue visiting KLB. Reasons cited were that the service was underused, in which case should they limit how many times they come to, say, only twice a year. Mention was also made that they had received several complaints about the condition of glasses when they arrived. As we have not been notified officially, it was felt we should write asking exactly how they came to this decision. It was noted that Goskirk and McGinty of Golspie visit every so often and was felt by some as a much better service. Meeting agreed we should write. **GW to action.**

(i) Community Company

Graham mentioned that the Community Company AGM will be held on 18th May in the Village Hall and that all subscribers should endeavour to attend.

(7) Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 7.00 pm on 1 June 2010 in the Village Hall.

The Meeting ended at 8.05 pm.