

KINLOCHBERVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 04/11/08 at Taigh Ceilidh

Present: Graham Wild (Vice-Chairman), Christine MacKenzie (Treasurer), Murdo MacPherson, John Mann and Michael Otter.

Also present: George Farlow (Highland Councillor) and Isobel Patience (Secretary).

Agenda Items

(1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Mairi Eastcroft, Joan Mackay and Sylvia Mackay.

(2) Minutes 07/10/08

The Minutes were proposed for approval by Christine, seconded by John and duly approved.

(3) Chairmanship and Vice-Chairmanship of Community Council

At last month's Annual General Meeting it had not been possible to elect a Chairman. However, following further discussions and assurances of increased support Graham agreed to offer his services as Chairman for a further year together with John as Vice-Chairman. Graham accordingly stood down as Vice-Chairman, and the new appointments took place as follows.

Office	Nominee	Nominated by	Seconded by	Result
Chairman	Graham Wild	John Mann	Christine MacKenzie	Elected
Vice-Chairman	John Mann	Graham Wild	Murdo MacPherson	Elected

(4) Matters Arising from the Minutes

(a) Scottish Ambulance Service and Patient Transport

Cllr Farlow advised that a very positive meeting had been held the previous week and had resulted in a list of bullet points to take forward with MSPs. These included full-time working, additional duties linked to GP practices and 24-hour cover using three teams per ambulance station. However it remained the case that vacancies take a short time to create and a long time to fill, inevitably resulting in gaps in the service.

Referring to a serious incident that had occurred in Scourie last month, Cllr Farlow confirmed that Scottish Ambulance Service managers were aware of it and an investigation would be taking place.

Michael reminded members that failures were still occurring with the Patient Transport Service, even in its scaled-down capacity as a service aimed at those in greatest need. It was agreed that Graham should invite a representative from the PTS to the February meeting of the Community Council, while at the same time investigate the possibility of a voluntary scheme.

(b) Marina

The Highland Council now had a detailed drawing of the pontoon layout on display in the Harbour Offices, which it was believed would provide adequate facilities for local users and visitors.

(c) Fishermen's Mission

The Mission was now closed and nothing was yet known about its future use. The RNMSDF was currently advertising an auxiliary post for one day a week so that it might continue to provide a pastoral and welfare service to the fishing industry.

(d) Website

There was a new local contractor potentially willing to take on the task of developing the community website and Murdo offered to progress this further. Once the website was up and running, its ongoing maintenance could probably be undertaken by volunteers.

(e) Harbour Storage

Cllr Farlow advised that he would shortly be in a position to raise the matter of the sharp increase in rent with the Highland Council's General Manager (Harbours).

(f) MOD Exercises

Graham had mentioned shipping safety issues to David Halpin at the MOD, and David had agreed to attend a future meeting of the Community Council to explain the MOD's policy and practice.

(5) Treasurer's Report

Cash in the bank was made up as follows:

Christmas Lights fund: £912.00

Brochure fund: £876.00

Community Council: £1494.00

War Memorial fund: £187.00.

Christine agreed to remind the Fire Service about its contribution.

(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:

1. Invitation to Commission on Scottish Devolution event in Inverness on 28/10/08
2. The Community Councillor newsletter, Summer 2008
3. Building a Highland Compact poster and booking form for event on 26/11/08
4. North & West Sutherland Local Health Partnership Minutes 02/10/08
5. E-mail from Cllr Farlow about Community Transport Fund
6. Planning update from Richard Hartland, Head of Planning & Building Standards
7. E-mail from the Sutherland Partnership: Impact of Communications Charges on Voluntary Lifesaving Organisations
8. NHS Highland Team Update Issue 51
9. Follow-up e-mail from the Sutherland Partnership: Impact of Communications Charges on Voluntary Lifesaving Organisations
10. E-mail from John Muir Trust: funding for renewables
11. Highland Council Winter Maintenance Plan
12. Invershin Ward Forum Agenda 22/11/08 and Minutes of previous Forum
13. Caithness, Sutherland & Easter Ross Planning Committee Agenda 04/11/08
14. Invitation to HIE Economic Growth Challenge Meeting, 06/11/08, KLB High School
15. Climate Change questionnaire from David Stewart MSP
16. North & West Sutherland Local Health Partnership Agenda 06/11/08
17. E-mail from Andy Mackay: retention of threatened BT phone boxes
18. E-mail from Andy Mackay: invitation to ASCC Annual National Conference, 22/11/08.

(7) AOCB

(a) Remembrance Day

Graham had been given the honour of laying the wreath at the Remembrance Day service. It was not yet known whether the RNMDSF would also be doing so this year.

(b) Royal Mail Questionnaires

Royal Mail Letters had distributed quality of service questionnaires in the area, one of which had been received by Graham. In view of Royal Mail's failure to respond to any of the Community Council's letters

or e-mails about mail collection and transmission procedures, Graham proposed to attach copies of these to the questionnaire in the hope of at last receiving a reply.

(c) Fences at Oldshoremore

It was noted that a barbed-wire fence had been erected on the common grazings at Oldshoremore and was impeding public access. It was agreed to investigate with Oldshoremore Estate and the Highland Council's Access Officer whether the fence could be removed or, if not, whether a gate could be put in.

(8) Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Community Council was scheduled for 7.00 p.m. on 02/12/08 at Taigh Ceilidh.

The meeting ended at 8.15 p.m.