

KINLOCHBERVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 05.04.11 at The Village Hall

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

Also present: Linda Munro (Highland Councillor), Elaine McHugh (Secretary)

Agenda Items

(1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Michael Otter, Murdo MacPherson

(2) Minutes (01.03.11)

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

(3) Matters Arising from the Minutes (01.03.11)

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

Graham confirmed that current details and prices of availability of the fitness room were passed on from Anne Debenham to Jasmin and Kirsty. Sylvia said she had not received a copy and added that someone was due to come to look at the feasibility of shutting off the fitness area from the rest of the school, however, they failed to turn up. **GW to speak to Dr Smith.**

(b) Item (c) Water quality

Joanna Peebles (Regional Communities Manager) confirmed her response to Michael Otter's communication had been sent direct to him. In his absence, Graham read out an email from Michael giving the results of the tests carried out at his property. This showed the total of THMs/THes as 16.p microgrammes per litre. Michael understood from websites that the maximum permitted level is 100, so it seems the sample is well below. Sylvia asked if there was any response to past correspondence. Graham clarified Joanna's response was only to Michael's email and agreed to speak to Joanna Peebles further. Sylvia also asked if there was any more information on the high chlorine content and it was felt that Scottish Water should provide kits for home testing for chlorine levels and that Joanna Peebles should come to KLB to speak personally. Graham agreed to write requesting a visit. Cllr Munro asked for a letter from the Community Council to her making her aware of the ongoing problems and how the community is now concerned about chlorine levels. She then agreed to write on our behalf. **GW to action**

(c) Oldshoremore, Road to Heliport/Tap at Sheigra Cemetery – Items (6) (a) (c) (f)

Graham has been in touch with Henry regarding these items. The cemetery wall at OSM has been attended to. Henry was aware of the road to the Heliport and the potholes on the approach to the Advice Centre had been filled to some extent but are still not good. Henry will look into along with the water supply at Sheigra cemetery.

Sylvia asked about progress on the Army carrying out repair work to the beach path at OSM. Graham to re-contact David Halpin. The field gate from the car park at OSM is now defunct and will be renewed, this field is the area suggested for picnic tables. Stuart pointed out that behind the toilet block steps lead to a flat piece of ground and asked whether this would be a better position for a picnic site. Sylvia asked if this could be something the Army could take on. **GW to action.**

The footpath up to the Garbet is on the Council's plan.

(d) Ceilidh House – Item (6)(b)

A visit from representatives of the Kyle Centre was to take place to look over the facility to see what is provided as the Kyle Centre is due to close. The Ceilidh House Committee is in talks with the NHS and Council to make renovations. Graham said the Community Council will support all measures taken to ensure the Ceilidh House remains open.. Sylvia reiterated that everything that can be done is being done to ensure its future.

(e) Social Care (Ward Forum) – Item (6)(g)

Cllr Munro is carrying out a comparison of fuel prices around the Ward with the intention of going back to the Committee pointing this out and emphasising that to provide real care this needs to be factored in. The Council has put mileage rates up to 45p for staff but everything is more expensive and if care work in rural areas is to keep up it means consideration being given to all aspects.

(4) Treasurer’s Report

Christine reported a £2,332.70 balance.

(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:

- Report setting out recommendations on Community Benefit, ref. onshore/offshore renewable energy
- Insurance Renewal details
- Weekly Planning Application lists
- Copy of Presentation as given at NWS & C Ward Forum on Social Work Services
- Documentation relating to the new Scheme/Constitution/Standing Orders & Code of Conduct for Community Councils w.e.f. 1 April 2011. Also available on the Council’s Internet at www.highland.gov.uk/ccreviewfinal.
- Traveline Scotland Marketing Materials
- Report by Corporate Manager, Ross, Skye & Lochaber
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Army Headquarters

- Notification of Military Exercise 20 March – 1 April 2011 and Joint Warrior exercise 4-14 April 2011

Stornaway Coastguard – Invite to joint a march on 19 March to save our coastguard station.

Northern Constabulary – Review of Policing Structure: Input to Consultation

NWS LHP – Notes of meeting held on 3 March 2011 plus paperwork for next.

SNH – Information on SSSIs (Foinaven and Sheigra-Oldshoremore)

Reference the documentation about the new scheme for Community Councils, Stuart pointed out that the maximum number of members in future for KLB is eight based on population and area acreage.

(6) AOCB

(a) Footbridge on Loch Innes

The footbridge, which was originally donated, is in a state of disrepair. Graham said that whilst the route will have new drains and path, the work does not include the bridge. A re-quote by Robert is to be submitted which will give a breakdown of costs and if this quote is accepted, Robert suggested a temporary measure of placing strong coarse wire over the hole in the bridge as part of the work. John asked if there are there plans to replace the bridge at some stage, Graham said we could approach Frank Byrnes about the donation of another one. Again, this could be a job for the Army.

(b) Sheep in village

A meeting with Sue Agnew (SNH) is due to take place to discuss the problem of deer in the community. That meeting will also be attended by the crofter responsible for the sheep getting into the village, so mention will be made. It was felt that a lot is down to fences not being sufficiently stock proof. Graham reiterated that the Crofters Commission suggested we identify the crofter concerned, this we have done and so will write back to the Crofters Commission. Cllr Munro said the Commission will advise whether the various areas of the community are an open or closed township, this will be incorporated in our letter to the Commission.

(c) Tarmac car park at Droman & sheep

The problem is the sheep being fed here and the subsequent mess. Cllr Munro asked if this was still classed as a harbour? It was confirmed that it still belongs to Highland Region Council. Again Cllr Munro said it was a matter of open or closed township. A letter has been drafted to the Crofter of the ground and is due to be sent.

(d) Community Council notice board

Stuart felt we desperately needed a board for official notices. It would need to be easy to open and waterproof and following agreement placed at the garage. Graham agreed to source suppliers and prices. Cllr Munro suggested we approach Highland Council for funding from the Ward Discretionary Budget.

(e) Broadband

Cllr Munro apologised for not progressing this item as yet.

(f) NHS and HCC combined services

Cllr Munro reported a third meeting is to take place, looking at any deal breakers that might mean the merger not taking place. The completion date is May 2012 but it was felt that it is a very large project to complete in two years. Day care and lunch clubs are of particular concern because if they become part of Health then input that councillors will have is unknown.

(g) Migdale

Graham asked who sets the criteria for those being admitted to Migdale. Cllr Munro said a meeting between local surgeries is to take place to discuss. Nothing more is known than what is reported in the papers.

(h) Signs for the community

Sylvia asked if the Community Council could buy suitable signs. Graham confirmed that within Core Path Plan signs are available. Sylvia said that signs she had in mind would highlight more local amenities i.e. village hall, school. Stuart pointed out that signs of any size would need planning permission, especially if they infringe the highway. As a starting point it was thought the CC should go through the TECS department of HC for guidance. Agreement was reached that the signs should be of a dark background with white lettering. **GW to action.**

(i) Picnic benches

The money for the varnish needed will come out of picnic site fund. Sylvia said information boards would be required for picnic sties. It was thought the school was to do this and Graham said he would speak again to Barry. Possibly Duncan could repair the signs at Polin. **GW to action**

(j) Ward Discretionary Budget

Cllr Munro suggested that if there was anything requiring funds we invest in doing it sooner rather than later as the Council are seeing higher than average applications. If we have plans for this year, put in an application now. We would probably not get more than 50% but effort, labour or whatever Community Council is willing to put in is taken into consideration.

(k) 2014 homecoming

Following a further email from Irene MacLeod (CVS) Sylvia enquired as to whether there were any plans for this event. **GW to look at again.**

(l) Community Project Co-ordinator

Sylvia asked if there was a report update, she thought it had been agreed that the Community Council would receive an update each meeting. Graham said that the Company/CPC were due a meeting on 19 April and that another newsletter was forthcoming. He also confirmed a public meeting would be held reporting on progress.

(7) Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 3 May 2011.

The Meeting closed at 8.05pm.

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