

KINLOCHBERVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 05/05/09 at Taigh Ceilidh

Present: Graham Wild (Chairman), John Mann (Vice-Chairman), Christine MacKenzie (Treasurer), Joan Mackay, Sylvia Mackay

Members of the public present: Stuart McHugh

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

Agenda Items

(1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Michael Otter, Murdo MacPherson and Mairi Eastcroft.

(2) Minutes 07/04/09

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

(3) Matters Arising from the Minutes

(a) Patient Transport Service

No further news. A three-month Consultation period is due to begin following which evidence will be collated. The Meeting agreed to keep up the momentum and continue pushing for two vehicles along with letters of response from both the Community Council and individuals to help strengthen the case.

(b) Marina

Cllr Farlow has not yet come back regarding the possibility of more funding to extend the Marina. A local creel fisherman has raised concerns regarding the position of the jetty, it was felt that it should have been located parallel to the harbour wall.

(c) Lay-by above Rhiconich

A letter has been sent to Peter Gordon (Waste Management, Highland Council) with a request for waste bins for the lay-by at Rhiconich and the All-ability picnic area at Loch Clash. Still awaiting a reply, Graham will chase.

(d) Store for slaughtered animals

Cllr Rowantree enquired as to what this concerned. Graham outlined the request that had been received. Cllr Rowantree mentioned that there is a Scottish Rural Development Grant available to develop food handling and store facilities if the store was for personal use. The individual would be responsible for its proper use ensuring health and safety measures were met.

(e) Viewpoint

It was asked if anything more was forthcoming on the provision of a Viewpoint. A letter is to be drafted and sent to Geopark. Graham outlined the background and subsequent refusal by the crofters to Cllr Rowantree. Geopark has stated that the area designated would provide the best viewpoint in Scotland and fall within the Geopark trail along with a 360° pan. Cllr Rowantree suggested that the Community Council contact the Estate and the Crofters Commission. The meeting agreed with this and Graham will take forward. It was also suggested that an approach to the crofters concerned was made again to give them the opportunity to agree rather than invoking common grazing rights.

(4) Treasurer's Report

Christine reported current funds of £2180.00 including £1000 in Christmas Lights account. The brochure is still in debt by £67.00.

(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:

1. Letter, poster & leaflets from NHS Highland regarding changes to delivery of emergency dental care.
2. Letter from BMA Scotland enclosing copy of recently published consultation document *General Practice in Scotland: The Way Ahead*.
3. Emails from Fran Loots, John Muir Trust:
 - Funding Info for the Environment & Sustainability Projects
 - Holyrood 350 – Invitation to meet MSPs in the Scottish Parliament 04/06/09
 - Big Lottery Fund Scotland : *Investing in Ideas* deadline extended to March 2010
 - On Site Generation – Renewables Training
 - New blogs and other news
4. Email Anne Macrae, Chief Executives Office. Caithness Sutherland & Easter Ross Planning Applications & Review Committee (CSER PARC) Agenda for meeting on 21/04/09.
5. Scottish Natural Heritage – *The Nature of Scotland* magazine, Spring 2009.
6. Email from Highland Licensing Board, Caithness, Sutherland & Easter Ross, with agenda for forthcoming meeting on Tuesday 28 April at 11 a.m. Golspie.
7. Letter Highland Council with enclosures: *Code of Conduct for Community Councillors including Models; Walkers are Welcome Towns Network; High Societies Website*.
8. Email from Liz Manson with Agenda for LHP Meeting at Tongue on 7 May 2009.
9. Email from Fran Loots with link to Blogs and other information.
10. *Team Update* - NHS Highland Staff Newsletter - March and April.
11. Letter from David Stewart MSP re Consultation Document to create a Victims' Commissioner for Scotland. Document available online.
12. Letter Highland Council re *Housing in the Countryside Development Planning Policy Guidance* plus further letter enclosing hard copy of the Interim Supplementary Planning Guidance Consultation Draft.
13. Letters from the Army:
 - Notification of Military Exercise, Loch Eriboll, 10-22 May 2009.
 - Notification of Military Flying Activity, Highland areas 11-22 May 2009.

With regard to Item 7, Graham will arrange for extra copies of the Model Constitution form as supplied. Cllr Rowantree said that the Scottish Government were keen to assist with training for Community Councils. He also suggested that the meeting re-look at the current boundaries of Community Councils as, given the variations in size, new boundaries might be drawn with some councils merging. The meeting felt that the current local situation would be best if left as is. Graham requested that all members look through the present Constitution to see if anything needs altering. Cllr Rowantree suggested that a copy is sent electronically to Andy Mackay for information, Graham to arrange. The current Constitution states a maximum committee complement of 12, Cllr Rowantree thought this might be too many. The view of the members was that it gave them flexibility to cope with extra workload. Cllr Rowantree asked when the Council last had an election and gave his views on the positives of holding one.

Item 12 - Rural Development in the Countryside. Cllr Rowantree explained the reasoning behind this, saying that the document is a guide for planners on certain aspects of development in more rural areas and where it differs from town/city developments.

(6) AOCB

(a) Signs

Still waiting for the go ahead to erect these. Graham has contacted Ian Moncrieff who apologised for not responding. Cllr Rowantree advised Graham to email Andy Mackay requesting that it is dealt with expeditiously, and he also contacted Andy to this effect.

(b) Community Company

A meeting needs to be held with all those involved with the Community Company. It has been suggested that too many committees represent Kinlochbervie and that rationalisation is needed. The proposal is to devolve the CDP and this will be discussed at a meeting to be held on 6 May and if agreed an AGM will need to be held to vote itself out. An appropriate date for this would be the day following the July Community Council meeting, the 8th July. It was also suggested that the Charitable Status held by the KVCA be used for remaining committees.

(c) Sheep

The meeting agreed that the problem of sheep being allowed to roam free needs to be addressed. Areas must be stock proofed. Graham to speak to the Crofter concerned followed by a call to the Crofters' Commission. One concern is who will fund this. Cllr Rowantree said that the process had changed and the individual crofter needs to apply.

(d) Community Bus

Graham asked Cllr Rowantree on status of funding for new bus. It will go before the next TECS Committee and should come to fruition within the next three to four weeks.

(e) John Thurso MP

John Thurso paid Graham a visit to discuss various concerns, including patient transport.

(f) Police Cover

The question was raised whether there had been any notification by Northern Constabulary as to Police cover whilst the local PC was on sick leave. Graham had spoken to Sgt Gary Campbell who confirmed that a meeting was to be held to discuss cover. Cars have been patrolling the area at times and Graham will contact Gary again to see if a programme has been set up for formal cover.

(g) Port Committee

Christine Mackenzie advised the Committee that a meeting was to be held on Friday 8th May to discuss the creation of a Port Committee. Graham is unable to attend and presented his apologies.

(7) Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Community Council was scheduled for 7.00 p.m. on 02/06/09 at Taigh Ceilidh.

The meeting ended at 8.15 p.m.