

KINLOCHBERVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 05.07.11 in The Village Hall

Present: Graham Wild (Chairman), John Mann (Vice Chair),
Christine MacKenzie (Treasurer), Mairi Eastcroft, Joan MacKay,
Michael Otter, Murdo MacPherson, Angus Ross, Stuart McHugh

Members of the public present: David Forbes

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

Agenda Items

(1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Sylvia Mackay, Fiona Donaldson.

(2) Minutes (07.06.11)

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

Whilst not on the Agenda, Graham invited David Forbes to take the floor to address the meeting with his thoughts on the way forward over the situation of fishing practices affecting Kinlochbervie by the Faeroes. David had already written personal letters to the Fishing News and Richard Lochhead MSP and now feels strongly that we should approach the Faeroes Government direct. He proposes, with the help of Graham Gore, to produce a video of the area including interviews with local people and politely ask the Faeroes Government to help our community. David would like to know if the meeting felt this a good idea and to let him know. David left the meeting at 7.15pm. Members agreed it was a good idea and to let David and Graham Gaw organise.

(3) Matters Arising from the Minutes (07.06.11)

(a) Bench for Loch Innes path – Item (3)(d)

Still awaiting cost of this.

(b) Geopark – Item (4)

The meeting to discuss the Feasibility Study document had been held and the outcome has been conveyed in a letter to Cllr George Farlow in his role as Vice-Chair of the NW Highland Geopark Steering Group.

(c) New Community Council Constitution - Item (5)

Graham confirmed that a signed copy of the adopted Constitution had been lodged with Andy Mackay's office.

(d) Water quality – Item (3)(b)

Cllr Munro confirmed that following months of trying to talk to someone at Scottish Water she had drawn a blank. In consequence, she contacted the Highland Council Environmental Area Manager for CSER, Chris Ratter, who agreed as a special dispensation to test a sample of households across the KLB area. It should be borne in mind, however, that Highland Council do not routinely test chlorine levels. It was agreed that a spread of samples of five or six households would be sufficient and the members present were happy to volunteer for this. Michael's concern is that the readings of chlorine levels vary enormously, and if 0.2 is adequate why do SW need put more in. Once households are identified Graham will contact Chris Ratter direct to arrange a mutual time for samples to be taken. **Action GW.**

(e) Whale on OSM beach – Item (9)(e)

It is reported that the whale carcass is no longer visible having been buried under the sand.

(4) Community Project Co-ordinator's Report

Contrary to the Agenda Fiona is currently away on annual leave. Graham reported that when she returns she will research the funding available to fishing communities with a view to making an application.

(5) Treasurer's Report

Christine reported a bank balance of £4,250 of which £2,569 lies in the Christmas lights fund and a further £215 in the War Memorial fund.

(6) Correspondence

Highland Council:

- Weekly Planning Application lists
- New Financial Arrangements for Community Councils from 2012/13 plus timetable for CC elections to be held in November.

Wind Energy (Glenmorrie) Ltd – Following up to public exhibitions re Glenmorrie Wind Farm proposals.

NWS LHP - Notes of Meeting held on 2 June 2011 plus paperwork for the next one scheduled for 7 July 2011 in Bettyhill.

MoD – Notification of MoD Flying Exercise 10-21 July 2011.

NHS Highland – Team Newsletter

SNH – Quarterly magazine: *The Nature of Scotland*

Kompan – Playgrounds, Parks & Recreation equipment brochure

(7) AOCB

(a) Help from Forces

David Halpin is visiting KLB week commencing 18 July to discuss work the Community Council would like to see carried out with the assistance of the army. Cllr Munro said this was excellent news and congratulated the members. Once projects were decided upon, materials would be required and it was hoped that help might be forthcoming from the Ward Discretionary Budget. Discussion took place on the steps to OSM Beach and the possibility of a new route. Murdo suggested left of the present ones whereby the steps could be anchored to the rockface, although this could prove quite expensive. Murdo agreed to join Graham at the meeting if available.

(b) Bridget's Bench

Subsequent to the Minutes of the May meeting (Item (3)(f) Nicola has expressed that she wishes to maintain her mother's bench herself and does not want it painted, however, she gave thanks to the Community Council for its support with it.

(c) New Community Notice Boards

These have arrived and subject to weather will be erected on Friday. The intended sites are on the Garage forecourt and Bervie Stores.

(d) Broadband

As no contact had been forthcoming with John Grieve, the Corporate ICT Manager at Highland Council, Cllr Munro agreed to chase. She was aware that the Community had been turned down for LEADER funding in the past but Vicki Nairn, Head of E-Government, suggested HIE might come in and look at this area by way of a project. Many members around the table have found their systems much slower in recent weeks, well below normal operating standards, Cllr Munro will mention this.

Action: LM

(e) New Financial Arrangements for Community Councils

A letter from Highland Council setting out the new arrangements had been received by KLB CC. The new system gives a core amount to each CC with an extra £100 to rural communities and in addition to this, 0.37p is provided per head of population. Graham read out the numbers to the meeting, which results in a £405 reduction in grant from HC to KLB. Cllr Munro was concerned that given the increases in the price of fuel and less socialising, venues used for CC meetings will have to charge more and declining populations will mean further reductions. Cllr Munro was very concerned about this new arrangement and confirmed that she opposed it at vote. All 11 CCs under Cllr Munro have lost money.

(8) Date of next meeting

August sees a break for the summer, therefore, the date of the next meeting is scheduled for 6 September 2011 at 7.00 pm.

The Meeting closed at 7.50 pm.