

KINLOCHBERVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 05.10.10 at The Village Hall

Present: Graham Wild (Chairman), John Mann (Vice-Chairman),
Christine Mackenzie (Treasurer), Joan Mackay, Sylvia Mackay,
Stuart McHugh, Michael Otter, Angus Ross

**Members of the
Public Present:** None

Also Present: PC Ian Sutherland and Elaine McHugh (Secretary)

Agenda Items

(1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Mairi Eastcroft, Murdo MacPherson and Cllr Robbie Rowantree.

(2) Minutes (07.09.10)

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

(3) Matters Arising from the Minutes (07.09.10)

(a) Patient Transport – Item (3)(a)

It was understood that the car trial had been extended to November. Michael reported that the person running it was away until 5 November and that feedback would not follow until her return. He said he would try to speak with her boss in order to get feedback earlier. Local feedback suggested that the service was not used as much as it could be, either because people were not requesting it, or that they had been turned down when they did. Sylvia mentioned that we could see another pilot at a later date, but this is very much in the pipeline just now. **MO to action**

(b) Football pitch/grass cutting – Item (3)(b)

Following Cllr Rowantree's intervention the Council was contacted by John Macdonald, Senior Learning & Leisure Officer. Subsequently, Stuart met with him and a colleague to put to them the Council's concerns over the cutting of the football pitch, status of the High School and equipment in the Fitness Room (see previous Council minutes). The meeting was quite negative on all of the aspects raised and at Stuart's request John Macdonald agreed to send a letter covering the issues discussed and his responses to them. At the time of the meeting the letter had not been received. Subsequent to these Minutes a letter has been received from John Macdonald and will be made available to members of the Council.

The football pitch has recently been cut, seemingly by the Council, however, it is not known whether officially or not. Graham will speak to Henry. **GW to action**

Apart from the fitness room there is a community room and NWTC operate from the school. Michael had spoken with Jane (NWTC) about more evening and weekend courses, however, this would involve making use of the janitor. Michael felt we must keep using the facilities at the school or we will lose them. It was agreed we should keep pressing on with this and that Cllr Rowantree's input would be invaluable.

(c) Bench at Droman – Item (3)(c)

The repair to the walkway was completed by Graham and Stuart. Still outstanding is the repair of some slats to one of the benches, which again Graham and Stuart will carry out. Michael had repainted the two benches at Loch Clash and will attempt the one at OSM. Sylvia asked if this was work we asked the Army to do. Graham reported that to date there had been no response to our submission to the MoD.

(d) Recycling bins – Item (6) (b)

Graham has spoken to Henry who will keep an eye on the area and the amount of spilled glass. We will monitor the situation and only take forward officially with the Council if no improvement.

(e) Flowers of Remembrance at War Memorial site - Item (6)(c)

Graham met with the family who agreed that plastic flowers are an unsuitable memorial, and had removed them. The provision of a plaque was discussed with the family and subsequently by the Committee who is of the opinion that an additional plaque to the one already attached to the seat could set a precedent for further memorials of this kind. Therefore it was agreed that a Community Council sponsored plaque would not be provided.

(f) Sheep – Item (3)(e)

As no response has been forthcoming from the crofter, Graham suggested the next option would be to re-approach the Crofters' Commission, however, he would once again communicate verbally with the crofter before going down this route. **GW to action**

A member said that cattle on the road were also a problem and that given the size of the beasts was certainly a danger to cars especially at night and could be the cause of a serious accident. The member felt the fencing is inadequate or missing. When asked, PC Sutherland confirmed that there was very little the police can do about this, however, if an incident occurred to report to him.

(g) Core Paths – Item (3)(g)

Position has not changed, waymarkers have been ordered but no sign of them yet. Neither have we received confirmation of our bid for funding to repair the Loch Innes path. It was agreed to email Matt Dent to ascertain situation. There will be a JMT party starting work shortly on the Sandwood Bay path and Don suggested that we speak to contractors to see if they would be available to do other work. Michael said that they are to stay in one of his cottages and so he will make the approach. **MO to action**

(h) War Memorial – Item (6)(a)

The Saltire has now been taken down. Although the September minutes stated that the British Legion confirmed that only the Union Flag should be flown, following a call to three further branches Graham was unable to obtain a definitive answer to the rights or wrongs. Michael reiterated however, that in the past the British Legion made it quite clear only Union flags should be raised. The consensus of the meeting was that this should be the case in future.

(i) Ward Forum – Item (6)(e)

Stuart attended this forum held in Scourie. Highlights were the reiteration of spending cuts and there was a presentation on the Highland Wide Local Development Plan. Sylvia raised a concern that had been voiced over the reduction of gritting times by two hours in the morning and one at night. Sylvia asked if the Council would write in protest of this reduction, as it would have an adverse affect on the services for care in the home. **GW/EMc to action**

(j) Constitution

Michael asked about discussion of the Constitution as stated at the last meeting. Graham asked whether the Committee were happy with the wording, as we need to adopt it. There was confusion over which was the newest version and Graham confirmed it was the unsigned copy. As only some of the members had brought along a copy, it was agreed that we take it to the next meeting.

(4) Treasurer's report

Details of the Bank Account and Christmas Lights fund can be found attached to these Minutes as Appendix 1 and 2.

(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.

Ramsay Aitken, Northern Constabulary: Sutherland & Easter Ross Monthly Report. New initiative that includes more detail of calls/incidents.

Highlands and Islands Regional Labour MSPs: Further update on their endeavours to get a better broadband service for the Highlands and Islands.

Highland Council:

- Rural Communities Directorate. Information about *Speak Up for Rural Scotland* a new Scottish Government Consultation that will be mentioned at a future Ward Forum.
- Ivor Souter – Training for Community Groups - courses available.
- Notice of Temporary Weight Restriction over Struie
- Promotional Material for *Highland Archaeology Festival 2010* (2 – 17 October)
- Documents relating to the proposed plan of the Highland Wide Local Development Plan
- Agenda, Minutes and list of planning applications for Caithness, Sutherland and E. Ross.

NWS LHP – Notes of meeting held at Bettyhill on 02.09.10 plus Agenda for next meeting.

Scottish Water – Performance Summary 2009/10

In addition, Graham had received communication from Andrew Ramsey of RBS Ullapool to confirm the set up of a bank account for the Community Company and from Highland Council a copy of the Highland Wide Local Development Plan, which has now been approved.

(6) AOCB

(a) Youth Ward Forum

Stuart said there was talk last year about co-opting someone younger onto the Committee. Christine thought we were waiting for Jennie Corbett to take up her post as Youth Worker and Murdo was to canvass at the School. Graham said he would mention it to Murdo's upon his return. Stuart brought this up as early next year will see a Youth Ward Forum and it would be good to see a young representative from KLB CC there. **GW to action with Murdo**

(b) Blytheswood Recycling Bank

Joan reported that Blytheswood would be willing to place recycling banks, where the current ones are, for the recycling of clothes, bric-a-brac, whatever. If we are interested a contact number is available and a bank can be viewed at Durness, beside the school. Concern was raised over stepping on HomeAid's toes, but this was not so.

(c) Litter

As Minute (3)(d), 07.09.10, Graham confirmed the sites where the anti-litter posters will be displayed.

(d) Faster Broadband Project

Graham outlined this project and our application to Highland Council, with the help of Highland Wifi, for LEADER funding. He explained briefly how the project will work, the infrastructure involved and where the hardware will be sited.

(e) Pavement from KLB Hotel

Sylvia has been approached to ask if the Highland Council could provide a pavement from KLB hotel to link to the existing one down to the junction. Graham said that the drainage problem in that area is in hand with engineers looking at how to rectify it and maybe it could be tied in. He said he would mention the extension of the pathway to Henry initially to obtain his thoughts. **GW to action**

(f) Geopark

Michael felt that local businesses gained nothing whatsoever from Geopark status and that it was ineffectual in its remit to support tourism. Graham said he supported the work of the Geopark but in terms of tourism agreed they did nothing. Michael said he would try to attend the next Geopark meeting on 18 October.

(7) Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 2 November 2010.

The Meeting ended at 8.40 pm.

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