

KINLOCHBERVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 06.03.12 in The Village Hall

Present: John Mann (Chair), Gary Sutherland (Vice-Chair), Christine Mackenzie (Treasurer), Stuart McHugh (Secretary), Angus Ross, Kirsty Holland, Mairi Eastcroft, Murdo MacPherson

Also present: George Farlow (Highland Councillor), Elaine McHugh (Minutes), Andy Mackay (Ward Manager)

(1) **Apologies** - Apologies were received from Fiona Donaldson, PC Ian Sutherland

(2) **Minutes (07.02.12)**

The Minutes of the last meeting were proposed for approval by Mairi and seconded by Christine.

(3) **Matters Arising (07.02.12)**

(a) **Geopark – Item (3)(a)**

Cllr Farlow addressed the meeting with an update on the Geopark. A public roadshow is to take place on 30 March in the Village Hall commencing at 7.00 pm. There will be a presentation detailing the future of the Geopark and proposed Geocentre. Cllr Farlow to liaise with Mairi over arrangements for the Village Hall. **Action: Cllr Farlow.**

(b) **Water quality – (Item (3)(b))**

Cllr Farlow explained that Scottish Water is having problems with the supply from Elphin to KLB. He has e-mailed Joanna Peebles (SW) who is to organise community type presentations. It was agreed that a representation from the Community Council would visit the treatment works. Cllr Farlow is to follow this up requesting three dates during April. **Action: Cllr Farlow**

(c) **Housing – Item (3)(c)**

Cllr Munro had been in touch with Jim Holden. In her absence John read out Jim's response. John asked if anyone had concerns about this. The consensus is to see the house in Manse Road kept as housing stock and a family placed within as soon as possible. It was suggested that the level of demand be determined, i.e. how many are on the waiting list and that a dialogue be maintained with Jim Holden. Cllr Farlow is to write to Jim Holden and ECS asking for Highland Councillors to be kept informed of events. Cllr Farlow asked about NHS property in Bervie Road, it was confirmed this is to be offered to Highland Council, or sold. **Action: Cllr Farlow**

(d) **VisitScotland – Item (3)(f)**

Cllr Munro had been in touch with Willie Morrison. Again, his response was read out. Willie has agreed to write something for the press. Essentially, people who have had personal experience of dealing with VisitScotland and its approach to this part of the Highlands, need to contact Willie. At a recent tourism meeting Mike Cantlay, head of VisitScotland threw down the gauntlet for addressing miss-information given by any member of staff. It was suggested the Community Council write to Mike Cantlay direct. Gary agreed to publicise the problems with VisitScotland on the KLB website asking for people to contact Willie with factual information. **Actions: Stuart, Gary**

(e) Port Committee – Item (3)(g)

Letter to Stuart Bell TEC Services inviting him to a meeting to discuss gritting arrangements.

(f) Brochure insert fees – Item (3)(i)

Good response to letter calling for subscriptions with over £200 collected to date. Christine will issue receipts. Following a suggestion it was agreed that a sub-committee be formed to take on production of a new brochure for the 2013 season. This will consist of Stuart and Gary plus a person(s) externally. Gary to post a notice on the website asking for willing participants.

(g) North West Care Alliance - Item (3)(j)

The Community Council produced a comment to the initial article in the Northern Times, although this was not published in the paper it can be found on its website. Matters have moved on and the date of 30 March for closure stands, however, the issue is still active. Cllr Farlow had originally intended for a petition containing 700 signatures to be handed over to the leader of the Highland Council's administration, however, this had not been met. Cllr Farlow has written to Alistair Dodds asking for an explanation.

(h) Tourist information – Item (3)(k)

Christine to see Joan Mackay. A donation of a leaflet holder had been received. **Action: Christine**

(i) Bervie Road – Item (3)(l). No further information. In Henry's hands.

(j) Copies of Draft Minutes – Item (7)(d). It was confirmed these are being distributed as agreed.

(4) Community Project Co-coordinator's Report

Fiona had provided a written Monthly summary. John outlined its content, covering meetings, contacts, community project update and other business. Andy Mackay reported that £4½K had been awarded from the Ward Forum Budget towards legal costs in connection with the Loch Clash land transfer. Initially, this figure was expected to meet the full legal costs but was now expected to only meet 50% of the total. He also mentioned Matt Dent had written to all community councils in respect of grants for core path funding for the coming year and had received only one response. He stressed the need for feedback, otherwise the money would be lost. Stuart reported that he had been in touch with Matt.

(5) Treasurer's Report. Christine reported no change at all from last month.

(6) Correspondence

Items of incoming correspondence of a public nature are available for inspection at the N&WS Advice and Information Service at the harbour.

INCOMING

Highland Council:

- Weekly Planning Lists
- Phil Tomalin Ward Manager East Sutherland & Edderton re Community Benefits Policy and an invite to workshop Friday 2 March Lairg Community Centre (email forwarded to Committee)
- William Gilfillan – Invite to Training for Community Councils

ARMY – Notification of Military Exercise 11-30 March 2012.

Angela de Boer – second request for alteration of road sign at the Post Box junction at OSM.

NWS LHP – Notes/reports of February meeting.

NHS Highland:

- Planning for Integration
- Lynda Gilfillan – February NHS Briefing Note of Board Meeting 07.02.12 (copy emailed to Committee)

OUTGOING

NWSCA – Response to Northern Times article

Stuart Bell, TEC Services – Invite to future meeting to discuss gritting arrangements

William Gilfillan, Highland Council – Community Council Training venues (refers to Incoming letter above)

Stuart highlighted the letters from/to William Gilfillan. The nearest venue was Dingwall with a start time of 4 pm, which, for most members, would be inconvenient. Andy Mackay said that the Ward Managers had complained about the lack of venues on the west coast but was advised the decision had been taken and they would continue to go with the five as arranged. It might be an issue for a future Ward Forum as we need to make Highland Council realise, when planning such events, to bear in mind the North West Corner.

Stuart also raised the contents of Angela De Boer’s letter, which was originally discussed at the 3 May 2011 meeting under AOCB. Following discussion, it was agreed on a brown tourist sign. Cllr Farlow is to contact Colin Simpson and to assist him Stuart agreed to draw a map showing exactly where the sign should be placed. Cllr Farlow will also consult over major route signs. **Actions: Stuart/ Cllr Farlow**

(7) AOCB

(a) Core Paths

Posts for a trail starting from the rear of the Spar shop are in stock, the first job being the placing of markers for the erection of the posts. In respect of the already marked peat road/Loch Innes path, Murdo suggested that a more dedicated path be established and that this could be a project for the Army. He felt that the Peat road affords good views, but needs work to create a more defined path.

(b) Accommodation/Service Providers’ Display

A suggestion had been received for a prominent display of accommodation and service providers in the village in addition to the insert in the brochure. Discussion agreed that it would need to be an easily maintained display that can be updated with little expense. Stuart and Gary to take forward, possibly incorporating aspects of the brochure. It was thought the existing CC noticeboards could be used. **Action: Stuart & Gary**

(c) School Cattle Grids

It had been mentioned to John that the cattle grids at the school are overly noisy, possibly because of the increase in volume of traffic. Following discussion it was thought that they might just need tightening up. **Action: Stuart to speak to Henry Flett.**

(d) Sheep at Droman

Once again, sheep droppings are blighting the car park at Droman due to the sheep being fed alongside. It was agreed a letter to the Clerk of the Grazings be sent. **Action: Stuart**

(e) Council Community Benefit Policy.

Andy Mackay suggested this is of interest to community councils and that members go online to view and become familiar with it. **Action: All**

(f) Renewable Energy Feed-in Tariff

A question raised by Stuart at the 10 January meeting under AOCB Item (a) asked where money from the Tariff is to go and could the Community claim some of it. Cllr Farlow replied that in short the answer was no. Andy Mackay explained how the process worked.

(g) Fishing and the Faroes

This concerns the ongoing issue of loss of fishing quotas in favour of the Faroes. Christine had drafted a letter to Richard Lochhead MSP, which John read out. John expressed that the community needs to convey its concern over this and the devastation to KLB if the fleet was lost.

(8) Date of next meeting

With a break for the Easter holidays, the date of the next meeting is scheduled for 7.00pm on Tuesday 1 May 2012.

The Meeting closed at 9.00pm