

KINLOCHBERVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 06.07.10 at The Village Hall

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

Members of the public present: None

Also present: Graham Phillips and Scilla Aitchison of Phillips Aitchison Ltd
Robbie Rowantree (Highland Councillor), PC Ian Sutherland,
Elaine McHugh (Secretary)

Graham opened the meeting by welcoming Graham and Scilla, who are consultants employed by the Geopark to carry out a feasibility study into the Shelley Collection and how it might benefit the area as a whole. They are attending meetings of all the Community Councils in the Geopark area to present their objectives and to ascertain what already exists in terms of attracting people to the area and each Council's particular concerns. Scilla gave a background on Don Shelley and his unique collection that was amassed over many years. The collection is of a general as well as geological nature and is very much a tourist attraction. Graham continued by outlining what they were tasked with but said they had taken things further with an in depth look at the background and went on to outline what the study will cover. They had read the KLB Community Council's letter to Geopark and agreed with many aspects of its concerns and had already had a meeting with Graham Wild and Stuart.

They went on to say that following a visit to the Museum of Scotland they were advised that the collection should not be split, it needs to be seen as a whole to be fully appreciated as a theme runs through it. However, items could be loaned out with appropriate security. Graham Phillips asked for any concerns or points to be made known to them and requested that two to three people who knew the area well sit with them and talk through the general opportunities, benefits and threats and identify possible sites and agree best tactics to take. It was noted that the importance of involving landowners and others from outset was paramount. Graham Wild agreed to assist in finding up to three people to meet with Graham and Scilla who would come to KLB for the get-together. Suggestion was made of David Forbes, Murdo, Stuart and Joan.
GW to action and liaise with Graham and Scilla.

Graham and Scilla left the meeting at this point.

Agenda Items

(1) Apologies

Apologies were received from John Mann, Murdo MacPherson and Michael Otter.

(2) Minutes (01.06.10)

The Minutes of the last meeting were proposed for approval by Angus and seconded by Stuart and duly approved. It was raised and agreed that we will revert back to displaying Draft Minutes of meetings and not wait for the Approved version.

(3) Matters Arising from the Minutes (01.06.10)

(a) PR/Goodwill work by Army (Item (3)(a))

Graham still to get prices for materials. **He will action.**

(b) Loch Clash – Item (3)(b)

Graham still to set up meeting with Ewan Harris regarding land transfer legalities. The new fuel jetty project would be discussed at the Harbours Fisheries Board committee which Cllr Rowantree is not a member of, however, George Farlow is and both he and Tony Usher will be aware of what is happening.

(c) Patient Transport – Item (3)(d)

Graham confirmed that the number of passengers the car was able to convey is four. Sylvia advised that the project has been extended until 18 October following which a draft qualitative and quantitative evaluation from the pilot project will be produced. Michael is drawing up a poster to display locally to invite users of the car to let him and Sylvia know of their experiences, especially with regard to eligibility. There has been talk of moving the car from KLB and basing it in Ullapool because it seemed it was used more from there, however, this was agreed by the meeting as totally unacceptable. Cllr Rowantree was concerned that should this happen, then the catchment area could increase to take in for example Poolewe and Gairloch. It is important that the focus is north of Ullapool and not south. He also suggested that we make sure our argument is based on preventative medicine, spend now allowing patients easy access to their appointments and treatment rather than once admitted to hospital. Given the current budgetary implications we need to be watchful and creative, finding other ways through a separate source to help fund this scheme.

(d) Football pitch/Grass Cutting – Item (6)(a)

Graham asked whether the donation, agreed at the last meeting to meet the cost of cutting and preparing the pitch for the Gala, had been used. It was agreed that the situation sorted itself out and that the work was carried out and was a credit to all those involved. To date, despite a follow up email, no response had been received from John Macdonald (Highland Council) who is charged with the responsibility of grass cutting.

(e) Bench at Droman

A second picnic bench is to be sited here and George will collect and place.

(f) Picnic sites – Item (6)(e)

The School had agreed to mention the concern raised over litter in the community to the pupils.

(g) Ullapool Swimming Pool – Item (6)(f)

It should be noted that the pool area and associated amenities are in fact owned and operated by Lochbroom Leisure with the fitness side being owned and operated by Highland Council. A letter had been received from Highland Council Learning and Leisure thanking us for our letter of support in seeing the re-opening of the pool. They acknowledged that the pool is an important part of the Council's provision of public swimming in the Highlands and that their partnership with Lochbroom Leisure Trustees is a very important one. However, due to budget savings it is the Elected Members who will take any decision on whether the Council is able to support the Trustees in their efforts to re-open the pool. Nevertheless, the Trustees are very committed to its re-opening and have organised a programme of fundraising events and other means to secure in excess of £100,000, the sum needed for repairs.

(h) Specsavers – Item (6)(e)

A very positive letter of response has been received explaining the reasons behind the withdrawal of the services. This covered the two main issues for their decision. First, whilst they did not have a shortage of patients wishing to be seen and tested, it seemed a large percentage of these took away their prescriptions to have their glasses made up elsewhere. This is of course a patient's right but Specsavers could not justify the costs of travelling the distance not to have any sales from glasses. Secondly, was the availability of the hall. Because of their route and the travel involved they need to have the hall available on a particular day and this was not always possible. However, they were extremely pleased we had taken the time and trouble to write and show that there is a community need for their service. Although their schedule for this year is now in place, they will be prepared to review returning to KLB and including us back in the schedule for next year.

(i) Sheep – Item (6)(g)

Graham read out the letter of response received from the Crofters Commission. A copy of this and our original letter were sent to the KLB Grazings Clerk for information. We are awaiting contact from the Grazings Clerk with comments.

(4) Treasurer's Report

Christine reported that there is £1528.00 in the Bank Account. The Christmas Lights fund contains £1,331.00 and Memorial Fund £247.00. Due to the loss of the original donation cheque, a replacement had been sent to CVS (November 09 Minutes refer).

(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:

- Andy Mackay – *Summary of Funding for Community Projects*
- Andy Mackay – Information, Agenda & dates regarding consultation on Community Care Programme changes.
- The HC Development Plan Scheme Summer 2010 (revised version of the April 2010 version).

SURF – Scotland's Independent Regeneration Network. Letter of introduction as a forum and consultancy on community regeneration.

NWSLHP – Notes of meeting held on 3 June 2010 at Rhiconich plus Agenda for next.

Scottish Women's Convention (funded by the Scottish Government) – Invitation to attend Roadshows
- SWC wishes to engage and consult with women on issues affecting them.

Wicksteed Playscapes – brochure of latest play equipment.

MoD – Notification of Military Exercise Flying Activity – 5-15 July 2010.

Ian Murray, Head of Community Learning and Leisure at Highland Council, in response to our letter regarding the possible permanent closure of Ullapool Swimming Pool.

Crofters Commission – responding to our letter regarding problem with sheep in KLB village.

Specsavers – responding to our letter about future non-attendance in KLB.

Chief Inspector Matthew Reiss – Invitation for representative to attend an Area Command Planning Day at Helmsdale on Thursday 19 August.

In respect of Matthew Reiss's email, Graham asked whether a representative ought to attend. PC Ian Sutherland suggested it would be beneficial especially in view of future budgetary restrictions. The meeting agreed and Graham will represent. **EMc to action confirmation of GW's attendance.**

(6) AOCB

(a) HIE Community Development Officer – Item (6)(b)

Sylvia updated the meeting on an HIE Development Officer for Kinlochbervie. There are things we need to do initially to take this forward and one is to update the KLB local plan. This will be condensed and sent out to the community for comment. At the recent Community Company special meeting it was agreed they would undertake to employ the officer. Funding to produce and send out the plan has been forthcoming including a £125.00 donation from the Community Council. The aim, once the officer is in post, is to complete a project within the first year. Following a suggestion by Cllr Rowantree, it was agreed Sylvia would email the KLB plan to Elaine to append to the Minutes received by the Committee. **Sylvia/Elaine to action.**

In addition, if anyone in the community would like to view the whole plan, they can email Sylvia Mackay for a copy. Sylvia@kinlochbervie.fsnet.co.uk.

(b) Core Paths

Graham met with Matt Dent and they walked and identified the problems with the Loch Innes route. Subsequently Matt has agreed to provide and pay for waymarkers, which are on order. Andy Mackenzie is pricing for the old road. Problems were also highlighted regarding fencing by OSM beach path, i.e. the lower field accessed from the car park and Matt has agreed to supply a new gate and fencing. In addition, they discussed the possibility of creating more walks around KLB, one of which was to Rubha na Leacaig point accessed from behind the Spar shop. Following on, Graham and Stuart also walked this to look at establishing a formal route and the number of waymarkers needed. Matt is happy to supply the waymarkers for this route but we would need to erect these.

(c) ECS House (School house in Manse Road) – Item (6)(c)

An email was received from Cllr Rowantree about this and subsequently forwarded on to Committee members. A response to this was received from Michael Otter, which Graham read out to the members present. Graham felt the Committee should have sight of Michael's response and that copies were available to the meeting. Graham asked the meeting if anyone wished to make comment, none was forthcoming.

(d) Litter Bins

Joan had received comments with requests for more little bins around the area. Graham said there are plenty of bins around and that people needed to be educated not to drop litter. Whilst this is a year round problem, PC Sutherland commented that once the tourism season starts a relative increase in litter is noticeable. He also confirmed that it is an offence to drop litter. Stuart suggested that signs requesting that litter is deposited properly or taken home might help. The meeting agreed and Cllr Rowantree suggested that we investigate organisations whose aims are to keep Scotland beautiful and lobby them for advice and support. The internet would be a good place to start. Finally it was agreed no extra bins but to look at displaying signs.

(e) Signs to MacBeath Memorial

Drew McClelland at Highland Council is dealing with these and designs were shown to the meeting. Graham also confirmed that Drew would include the words 'War Memorial'.

(f) Mobile Phones and Vehicle speed

PC Sutherland had been made aware of the use of mobile phones by lorry drivers and has witnessed such offences when off duty. He wished to make it clear that this is not acceptable. In addition, he has been monitoring the speeds of vehicles especially in controlled zones and will revisit this exercise at a later date.

(g) Water at Blairmore

Sylvia had been asked to bring this to the meeting's attention. The main concern is that when the water goes off those affected are not receiving bottled water until after 12 hours and they would like the Community Council to contact Scottish Water to support their own complaints. Graham had also been approached and Stuart had sent an email to Scottish Water as an affected customer. The response was not very positive. Cllr Rowantree provided a contact name and telephone number and Graham agreed to get in touch. **GW to action.**

(h) High school availability to community

When the High School was built it was due to be a community facility, however, at some point a decision was taken that it would be an educational one. Therefore, access to facilities is restricted to only when the school is open and concern has been raised over the Fitness Room. Some of the equipment is old and dangerous, and any upgrade would be welcome but more of a problem is the lack of access. The meeting agreed that with the provision of appropriate doors access only to the Fitness Room could be gained. Can the Community Council write to Highland Council asking if funding can be made available to update facilities and to make it more accessible to the community, especially in these heightened times of awareness of the benefits of health and fitness. Cllr Rowantree suggested we write to Graham Nichols, Area Education Manager, and that we should ask when and by whom the decision was made that it be moved from being a community facility to an educational one? If that was the original intention can we get back to it? It is important that the assets the Highland Council has, work for the benefit of all. Another question raised was what happens to the money that is paid for using the Fitness Room?

(i) Wind Turbines

Cllr Rowantree said that he had received correspondence and phone calls with objections to the proposed wind turbines up at Gualin and asked if the meeting had received anything similar. No one on the committee had been approached.

(7) Date of next meeting

It was agreed that a break for the summer would take place during August, therefore, the next meeting is scheduled for 7.00 pm on 7 September 2010.

The Meeting closed at 8.45 pm

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