

KINLOCHBERVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 10.01.12 in The Village Hall

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

Also present: Linda Munro (Local Councillor), Fiona Donaldson (Community Project Co-ordinator), Elaine McHugh (Minutes)

(1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Kirsty Holland and Andy Mackay. Cllr Munro passed apologies through the Chair that she would have to leave the meeting early.

(2) Minutes of previous meetings

Due to the Community Council elections approval of the Minutes from the September meeting and informal notes following the AGM in October is now only able to take place. As at least five members of the current committee attended those meetings it was unanimously agreed they were a true record.

Following the election, the Minutes from the Inaugural Meeting of 06.12.11 were proposed for approval by Angus and seconded by Christine and duly approved.

(3) Matters Arising

(a) Bench for Loch Innes trail path - Item (3)(b) September Minutes

Confirmed waiting until the spring before placing out.

(b) Geopark – Item (3)(c) September Minutes

Stuart updated the meeting. Cllr George Farlow heading up as Chair of working group. Geopark is to apply to become a company with its own bank account, as funding from Sutherland Partnership ends in December 2012.

(c) Water quality – Item (3)(d) September Minutes

Tour of the treatment works by Community Council members still outstanding. Secretary to contact Cllr Farlow, who was to arrange the visit, as a reminder and invite him to a future meeting.

Action: SGMc

(d) Help from forces – Item (3)(f) September Minutes

The work to the beach access steps was not carried out during the Army's October 2011 exercise within the area. The Army is not due back until April.

(e) Noticeboards – Item (3)(g) September Minutes

Neither are watertight, particularly the one at the garage. It was suggested that all long-term notices be encapsulated, which would offer better protection.

(f) Manse Road drain – Item (8)(a) September Minutes

Council had dug a drain but water continues to pour across the road. It now appears that there could be a spring in the area above Manse Road, which the Council is to look into. To date there has been no update.

(g) Housing – Item (8)(e) September Minutes

John read out an email from Kevin Falconer, Service Manager at Trust Housing, the conclusion of which is that Kevin will continue to liaise with colleagues in the Police to ensure they (Trust Housing) are aware of any updates in that situation. Cllr Munro agreed to look again into the situation of the educational house in Manse Road that is still boarded up and empty.

Action: Cllr Munro

(h) Ward Forum – Item (8)(c) September Minutes

The next Ward Forum is scheduled for 28 January in Lairg. John is unable to attend and asked if anyone else would be going. The invite is sent to the Chair but extends to all the members. The theme of the meeting is Access to affordable housing and given the recent local problems, Cllr Munro suggested if no one is able to attend then two to three questions be sent to Andy Mackay to raise on the Community Council's behalf. Fiona confirmed that she was planning to go in her own capacity.

(i) Cattle on beach and machair – Item (8)(d) September Minutes

It was reported that cattle were still grazing the beach and machair. It was agreed that this is something SNH should deal with and the Secretary is to contact and make them aware.

Action: SGM

(j) VisitScotland – Item (5) October Minutes

As reported in previous Minutes, Cllr Munro took this issue up and spoke to VisitScotland who denied the claims and maintained it was anecdotal, however she pointed out that many of her constituents are not happy with their performance. VisitScotland said they would look into, Cllr Munro has heard nothing. Cllr Munro felt we should gather local support and will email Willie Morrison.

(4) Community Project Co-ordinator's Report

Fiona gave a summary of December's activity, the pertinent points being funding for the Loch Clash project and the need for an Ordnance Survey of the land for which financial resources are being sought. Cllr Munro questioned the surveys and asked for a ballpark figure as grants to the value of £2K are available through the Sutherland Partnership. Fiona confirmed she was meeting with HIE next week regarding funding. Fiona confirmed that her post has been extended for another year.

(5) Letter from Port Committee

A letter had been received from the Port Committee concerning winter gritting arrangements for 2012. This letter was also sent TEC services to which no reply has been received to date. The Committee is asking for flexibility locally on snow clearance/gritting arrangements to enable the fish lorries to make their deadlines in severe weather conditions. An extra run around 9 or 10 o'clock might be needed and the ability to be able to speak to Henry direct would assist. Cllr Munro agreed to look into this.

Action: Cllr Munro

(6) Role of Secretary

In his absence Andy had been in touch with Stuart who outlined his discussion with him. In addition, Andy has emailed an extract from a training pack being produced for CCs. **EMc to email round.** Andy hopes to attend the next meeting and respond to any queries.

(7) Treasurer's Report

£150 fencing grant has been received, as reimbursement of money paid for the erection of trail way markers. The bank account holds £1,183.86 with £1,804 in the Christmas Lights' fund although there is still money outstanding from Santa's Grotto. £37.38 brochure fund. Christine mentioned that fees are now due and Stuart agreed to produce a list of advertisers. **Action: SGM**

(8) 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:

- Supplementary Guidance – Flood Risk and Drainage Impact Assessment
- Weekly Planning Application lists
- Agenda, poster, letter etc for next Ward Forum at Lairg on 28 January 2012
- **Derek Logie, Chief Executive** - notification of the Rural Housing Service Annual Conference 24 February 2012 in Dunkeld

NWS LHP – Notes of meeting & paperwork for next

NHS Highland – Kay Oswald - Re North Highland Community Health Partnership Public Engagement. Members of Management Team are willing to attend Community Council Meetings.

Trust Housing – Email from Kevin Falconer regarding situation in Mackenzie Square, KLB

Highland Community Care Forum – Introducing Connecting Carers initiative

NHS Highland – Team Update (Newsletter)

CSER - Planning Meeting Agenda

(9) AOCB

(a) Wind Turbine Application

Fiona asked about the email from Cllr Farlow regarding the Wind Turbine application. John said that he and Gary had raised their concerns that the application should not be discussed prior to the Community Council having had an opportunity to consider it, and Cllr Munro took up the concerns on their behalf. She explained the situation regarding the planning application system and had suggested a deferment to enable community council engagement. This did not happen. The Deputy Director has apologised and offered to come to a future meeting of the CC. Cllr Munro suggested the Council use this offer wisely. SGM asked where money from the Tariff is to go and can we, as a Community, claim some money and where can we spend it. Cllr Munro felt it was a question we should ask Cllr Farlow.

(b) North West Care Alliance (NWCA)

John read out a copies of emails received from Sylvia Mackay on the future of the NWCA. Members considered this to be a highly important and imperative service to the local community and wished to lend its support. It was agreed that Sylvia was to be consulted and a letter written to Bill Alexander. Cllr Munro was attending a NWCA meeting following the CC meeting to discuss a way forward. **EMc to send the emails to the rest of committee plus Fiona.**

(c) Geopark

Stuart sat originally on the Geopark's Steering Group as a representative of KLB Community Council, and has now gone on to become a member of the Working Group for the GeoCentre attending several meetings over the past months. However, he is unable to make the future meetings as they are all to be held on a Friday, which is difficult for him. He asked the members if there is anyone else who can take up the position in his place. It was felt it was important to have a representative servicing KLB. Due to commitments, no offers were forthcoming. **Stuart to go back to Cllr Farlow to discuss.**

(d) Tourist Information

Stuart was asked to raise this item. The Advice Centre (Citizens Advice Bureau) as a courtesy, currently order, hold and distribute tourist information leaflets and brochures. However, tourists want to talk to staff about the area but this is not part of their remit and is intruding on their time. This is becoming such a problem that the Advice Centre is seriously thinking of discontinuing holding the information. Discussion over how to rectify this took place. If it is discontinued it will be a further loss to the community. Stuart asked the members for ideas. Christine felt one answer would be to site the information in such a place that would not warrant it having to be manned.

Suggestions to SGM.

Cllr Munro left the meeting.

(e) Bervie Road

Christine had been asked to bring up the matter of water constantly lying in Bervie Road, which freezes in winter and wondered whether it could be a burst pipe. It was agreed contact be made to Henry. **Action: SGM**

(10) Date of next and future meetings.

It was agreed to continue to hold meetings on the first Tuesday of the month during February, March, May, June, July, September, October, November and December. The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 7 February 2012.

The meeting ended 8.30pm