

**Minutes of Meeting held on 23 February 2016 at The Harbour Offices**

**Present:** Gary Sutherland (Chair), Christine Mackenzie (Treasurer), Murdo MacPherson (Secretary), Margaret Meek (Minutes)

**Also present:** Hugh Morrison (Highland Councillor), George Silcock (Local Policeman)

**Apologies:** Mairi Eastcroft, Kirsty Holland, Graham Wild (Kinlochbervie Community Company)

**1.0 Presentation by George Silcock**

George Silcock, our local police officer and Counter Terrorism Liaison Officer, gave a presentation on the UK's Strategy for Countering Terrorism. He stated that any one time there are many hundreds of people being investigated. Hundreds of attacks have been prevented.

The main threats fall into three areas: Northern Ireland, domestic terrorism (extreme left, extreme right) and those inspired by Al Qaeda (including ISIS). Northern Irish groups have used Scotland for planning meetings and arms storage. Domestic terrorism, particularly the extreme right, is become more important. Al Qaeda inspired groups may use Northern Scotland for "hardship training" prior to going overseas to training camps. For example, the 7/7 bombers did some of their training in Scotland.

Scotland has a "Prevent Professional Concerns" strategy that targets people in danger of radicalisation. Schools are a partner. Any concerns should be reported to a multi-agency meeting where the concerns are discussed and an action plan set up.

**2.0 Minutes of 26 January 2016**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2016 were proposed for approval by Christine and seconded by Murdo. The minutes were approved.

**3.0 Matters arising from Minutes of 26 January 2016**

**3.1 Proposed Health Care Provision Changes**

There was no further news.

**3.2 17 Manse Road**

Margaret reported that the Kinlochbervie Community Company has been awarded a £15,000 grant from the Highland Council's Empty Houses program. This represents a 75% grant so another £5,000 must be raised before the money can be spent. Barry Pearson is almost finished the deed plan for the lease.

### **3.3 Geopark**

Murdo reported the following:

- Shona MacMillan has been hired as the new Business Manager to replace Pete Harrison and Mike Goodwin. She will be starting imminently.
- The Community Council has submitted a letter of support to the Scourie Development Company.

### **3.4 Core Paths**

Murdo reported that the signs for the picnic site have been repainted. There has been no further information on core paths.

### **3.5 Football Pitch and Play Park**

Christine reported that the group were not successful in securing a grant of £20,000 from the Lottery. The group is hopeful that an application for £10,000 to another branch of the Lottery will be successful.

### **3.6 Loch Clash Project**

Margaret reported that the collapsed drain has been filled in by Highland Council. Robert Elrick will begin work as soon as his Certificate of Public Liability Insurance has been received and viewed by the project manager.

### **3.7 Benches at Droman**

There has been no change since the last meeting. The benches are ready. As soon as the weather is better, they will be transported from Norman Elrick's yard to Droman and fastened down.

### **3.8 Storm Damage at Loch Clash**

Any work will wait for better weather and will not happen before March/April.

### **3.9 Droman Pier**

Hugh Morrison has not been able to talk to Tony Usher as he is off sick.

### **3.10 Community Broadband**

Margaret reported that the Stage 1 surveys have been sent out and there has been a good response so far. The deadline for completing the surveys is next week.

### 3.11 Garage Notice Board

There has been no change since the last meeting.

#### Action:

	Action	Who?
1	Contact Donald Mitchell regarding a sign	Hugh

### 3.12 Tourist Traffic

The 8 road signs are still at the costing stage; money for these signs is coming from the Ward Discretionary Fund.

### 3.13 Signage at Kinlochbervie Turnoff

There has been no change since the last meeting.

#### Action:

	Action	Who?
1	Ask Barry Pearson to add "drama" to the image.	Murdo

### 3.14 Oldshoremore Car Park

The Council won't do any work until after the winter. The dog waste bin needs to be replaced.

#### Action:

	Action	Who?
1	Request that the dog waste bin be replaced	Hugh

### 3.15 Patient Transport

Hugh reported that there will be a meeting shortly in Assynt on this issue.

### 3.16 Minute Secretary

There is a notice in the garage advertising for a new Minute Secretary. No applications have been received.

### **3.17 Bus Shelter**

Christine will accept the offer of a bus shelter from Highland Council and find a place for it at the garage. Hugh is waiting for the dimensions.

#### **Action:**

	<b>Action</b>	<b>Who?</b>
1	Send Christine the dimensions of the shelter	Hugh

### **3.18 Proposed Closure of Achfary Primary School**

The Community Council has sent a letter via email indicating that the Council had no objection to the closure of Achfary Primary School

### **3.19 Reduction in Highland Council Ranger Service**

The Community Council sent a letter in support of the Ranger Service to all the local Councillors and key Highland Council staff. Gary was a signatory to a joint letter from all West Coast Community Councils.

The Highland Council will be voting on next year's budget this Thursday (February 25). Significant savings must be found. Each group of Councillors prepares a budget (Independent, SNP, etc.). Hugh is a member of the Independent group which has proposed keeping the Ranger Service but downsizing it by accepting the voluntary redundancy applications from 7 individuals. If accepted, a total of 13 Rangers would stay.

### **3.20 Rats in Manse Road**

Hugh reported that bait was put out for rats but that it was not taken.

## **4.0 Treasurer's Report**

Christine provided the monthly Treasurer's Report. There has been no change since the last meeting.

## **4.0 Correspondence**

There has been no correspondence.

## 5.0 A.O.C.B.

### 5.1 Access to Oldshoremore Beach

The stairs need to be stabilised again. Dave De Boer is willing to do the work but doesn't have the appropriate tools.

#### Action:

	Action	Who?
1	Ask John Robert Morrison to install more posts.	

## 6.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 29 March 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Harbour Offices.