

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 24 November 2015 at The Harbour Offices

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

Also present: Hugh Morrison (Highland Councillor)

Apologies: Mairi Eastcroft

This was the first session of the new Community Council following the elections. Hugh Morrison welcomed the members and oversaw the election of office bearers.

Position	Name	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	Gary Sutherland	Christine	Kirsty
Vice-Chair	Kirsty Holland	Christine	Gary
Secretary	Murdo MacPherson	Kirsty	Christine
Treasurer	Christine MacKenzie	Margaret	Gary

Hugh turned over the meeting to Gary Sutherland.

1.0 Minutes of 27 October 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2015 were proposed for approval by Christine and seconded by Murdo.

2.0 Matters arising from Minutes of 27 October 2015

2.1 Proposed Health Care Provision Changes

Gary hasn't been able to contact the NHS representative.

2.2 Manse Road House

Margaret reported that the Community Company was hoping to seek funding for needed repairs from Highland Council through the Empty Properties Fund.

2.3 Geopark

Murdo reported the following:

- The Geopark is now a UNESCO site along with all Geopark sites; this should give access to more funding.
- SNH intends to de-designate Duartbeg as a Natural Nature Reserve as it does not meet conditions for interpretation and paths; it still retains its SSSI protections.
- It is difficult for the Geopark to apply for charitable status because some of its activities are money-making; it should be possible to overcome this.
- Phil Jones from Assynt has queried the fact that there is only 1 representative from Assynt on the Geopark Board; there are 10 people on the Board – 6 from area Community Councils and 4 who are appointed but not designated by region.

2.4 Core Paths

The signs have never arrived. One is currently ready – the sign for the Badcall Bay Road. Matt Dent had emailed a list of all core paths. It was noted that the path at the end of Manse Road was to be signed as the Sheilings Road. Everyone agreed that they preferred the Manse Road Peat Road as this is what everyone called it. There was a discussion about picking up the signs if they were available.

Actions:

	Action	Who?
1	Write to Matt Dent to follow up on signs.	Murdo
2	Contact Alec Morrison (Community Works Office) to request that he pick up signs.	Hugh

There are waymarkers in storage at the Harbour. After the winter, the Community Council will revisit this subject with a view to installing them.

2.5 Football Pitch and Play Park

Discussion is on-going.

2.6 Loch Clash Project

Christine reported that a contractor had been selected and work to demolish the buildings and prepare the site should start soon.

2.7 Benches at Droman

This is on-going.

2.8 Storm Damage at Loch Clash

The drainage pipes that go under the road and into the sea are clogged following the storms. They are not draining because of this.

Action:

	Action	Who?
1	Contact Alec Morrison (Community Works Office) to clear the drainage pipes.	Hugh

2.9 Droman Pier

Tony Usher will be visiting the pier in the next 2 weeks. Gary reported that the pier was covered in algae and that a power washer might be a good idea. The Community Council would like the pier to be safe and usable and not fenced off.

2.10 North West Training Centre

Margaret reported that 3 excellent candidates had been interviewed for the position of admin worker. The successful candidate was Gary Sutherland who has already started work. Kirsty reported that it had been necessary to postpone the Bread Making course due to a lack of working equipment in the school's Home Economics room. The course would be run in early 2016 once the equipment was repaired. Hugh thought that it would be a good idea to have a food hygiene course in the spring – perhaps in March.

2.11 Oldshoremore Cemetery Headstones

Margaret reported that she had asked Greg Youngson at Highland Council about responsibility. He had stated that Highland Council had responsibility for most cemeteries.

Action:

	Action	Who?
1	Contact Alec Morrison (Community Works Office) and David Thompson (maintenance) about the condition of the cemetery.	Hugh

2.12 Community Broadband

Margaret reported that following the public meeting, a working committee was formed to oversee the Stage 1 study. We are eligible for 100% funding; any expenses incurred for the study will be reimbursed by Community Broadband Scotland. Total costs would be in the region of a few hundred pounds. It was agreed that the Community Council could pay for any costs and then be paid back once reimbursement was received from Community Broadband Scotland.

2.13 Creag Riabhach Wind Farm Application

The Wind Farm has been approved.

2.14 Garage Notice Board

The notice board is still in need of repair.

Action:

	Action	Who?
1	Obtain a cost to repair or replace the sign.	Gary

2.15 Data Protection

This still needs to be done. This could be brought up when the new Community Council receives its training.

Action:

	Action	Who?
1	Review the forms and assess what is involved.	Murdo

2.16 Tourist traffic

At a previous meeting, Hugh had reported that the Ward Discretionary Fund had approved money for 8 road signs; these are at the costing stage.

2.17 Signage at Kinlochbervie Turnoff

Gary distributed a mock-up of the proposed sign. It was suggested that a caravan icon be added and the font be changed to a sans serif font such as Arial.

Action:

	Action	Who?
1	Obtain a price for the sign.	Christine/Gary

2.18 Supplying Other Community Council with Minutes

Margaret will email minutes to the other 2 Community Councils once they have been approved; thus the minutes will be sent approximately 5 weeks after the meeting.

Scourie Community Council have discussed sharing minutes at their last meeting and decided to add us to their mailing list for approved minutes.

2.19 Leader Funding

Gary was unable to attend the last meeting.

2.20 Planning for Your Future

Gary and Margaret attended the Open Day. Margaret stated that the proposed plans were important as they would comprise the policy framework for Council decisions. She said that Kinlochbervie had been designated a growth centre in the proposed plan. Online comments could still be made until early December.

The web link is <http://www.consult.highland.gov.uk>.

2.21 Friends of the Sutherland Veterans

This group had asked for a donation for a ceremony and reception for veterans planned for June 2016. It was decided to postpone a decision.

2.22 Oldshoremore Car Park

In response to a query from a resident, Murdo contacted Greg Youngson of Highland Council regarding land ownership in the area of the Oldshoremore car park. The car park and toilet are owned by Highland Council; it was noted that the car park surface is rough and would benefit from improvement.

The resident was particularly interested in the field that adjoins the path leading from the car park towards the beach. It is thought that this land belongs to John Muir Trust although the Trust aren't certain about this. In a conversation with Margaret, Greg Youngson said that Highland Council would have no objection to a private citizen building benches on land adjoining the path to Oldshoremore Beach provided they were built to an acceptable standard and were maintained.

Action:

	Action	Who?
1	Speak to George Crawford regarding the rough surface of the car park.	Hugh

3.0 Treasurer's Report

There has been no activity since the last meeting. Christine tabled the monthly financial report.

4.0 Correspondence

4.1 Core Paths

Matt Dent had emailed a chart listing all the core paths in the area.

4.2 Patient Transport Service

Assynt Community Council requested information about the patient transport service. Residents of Assynt were often told that there was no patient transport service in Assynt. Kirsty explained that there is one driver who provides the service in the area. He lives in Kinlochbervie but covers Assynt. There have not been significant problems in the Kinlochbervie area but it is recognised that it can be difficult to meet demand for the service.

Action:

	Action	Who?
1	Clarify the situation with respect to the patient transport service.	Hugh

5.0 A.O.C.B.

5.1 Minute Secretary

Margaret stated that as she was now a Community Council member, she would prefer not to be the minute taker. Christine will advertise for a new minute taker. Margaret said she would continue in the role until a new person could be found.

5.2 Bus Shelter

Hugh stated that he could supply a bus shelter to the community. It was agreed that the garage would be the best spot but there was no consensus on where it could be placed.

5.3 Dial-A-Bus

Highland Council has awarded the Dial-A-Bus contract to a new operator.

5.4 Youth worker

Gary reported that a new youth worker has been hired – Cara Cameron from Lairg.

5.5 Youth Funds

Gary reported that there were funds in an account belonging to a defunct youth group. Cara Cameron had enquired whether that money could be transferred to the Community Council for use in funding youth work. It was suggested that the money likely belonged to the North West Youth Initiative which has been inactive for several years. It was agreed that the money could probably be transferred as the constitution would have provided for transferring the money to a group that would use it for similar purposes.

Action:

	Action	Who?
1	Do the funds belong to the North West Youth Initiative? Was the group a charity? Did the constitution provide for transferring the money?	Margaret

6.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 26 January 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Harbour Offices.