

KINLOCHBERVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft of Minutes of Meeting held on 02.12.14 at The Harbour Offices

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

Also Present: Hugh Morrison (Highland Councillor), PC Ian Sutherland, Margaret Meek (Minutes)

Apologies: None

1.0 Minutes of 04.11.14

The minutes of the meeting held on 04.11.14 were proposed for approval by Mairi and seconded by Kirsty.

2.0 Matters arising from Minutes of 04.11.14

2.1 Laxford

There has been no word from Highland Council on dates.

Action: *Gary will email Gary Smith again.*

2.2 Ambulance Service

There has been no reply from the Ambulance Service in response to Gary's Freedom of Information request for statistics regarding availability of the ambulance in Kinlochbervie. Hugh Morrison reported that Steve Gorman (Area Service Manager for the Ambulance Service) had stated at a recent Sutherland Partnership meeting that a new full-time ambulance recruit will be in place by mid-December (bringing the total up to 4) and that a fifth person would be in place by mid-January. Hugh said that there was currently no cover for patient transport when the driver (Eddie Morrison) is ill or on holiday and that the 5th ambulance driver might be able to provide cover.

Action: *As there is a legal requirement to respond to Freedom of Information requests, Gary will lodge an official complaint.*

2.3 Highland Small Communities Trust

John Mann met with Gary Cameron (Interim Ward Manager) regarding the Manse Road house. The Trust wishes to see a Business Plan. Gary Cameron said that the community should move quickly as they are keen to proceed. John Mann said that the house is deteriorating and that there has been internal leaking.

Action: *The Community Company will do a Business Plan (no person specified for responsibility).*

2.4 Geopark

Murdo reported that there has been no Board meeting since the last Community Council meeting. The Kinlochbervie brochure (first in a planned series) has been completed in draft form. The next will be brochures on two specific routes and will be ready by summer. The Pebble Route is in progress but may not be ready by summer. The Geocentre in Unapool should be open by summer and a series of GeoRambles is planned for April-October. The Geopark will be producing an E-Newsletter.

Action: *Murdo will forward the E-Newsletter to Community Council members. Murdo will do a presentation to the Council on the Geopark's Business Plan at the next meeting.*

2.5 Core Paths

Murdo reported that Matt Dent (Highland Council Paths Officer) has passed on information since the last meeting. He will sort out common signage. Posts will need to be put in on the Minister's Point route. Cathel Morrison has said that he would speak to the landowner (Sarah Barr). The route will be put in with Don O'Driscoll and students from the high school. The Harbour is concerned that the light at the end of Minister's Point might be vandalised. It was suggested that a sign be put in at the light explaining its importance. John Mann stated that the Minister's Point Walk is a route rather than a core path because there is no actual plan for it. Highland Council's major concern with core paths is that they are clear and people don't get lost. There may be grant money for repair (e.g. to bridge the burn that runs into Loch Innes) but there is no money to build paths.

2.6 Brochure

There was no report on the brochure.

2.7 Notice Board

The notice board at the Post Office needs a new back.

Action: *Gary will repair the notice board with materials he has on hand.*

2.8 Kinlochbervie High School Community Gym

Using £10,000 from the Lottery's Awards for All program, the community fitness room at the high school has been refitted with new equipment (treadmill, exercise bike, cross-trainer etc.). Gary Cameron (Acting Ward Manager) thinks he can improve access to the gym for community members.

2.9 Community Services Open Evening (Brora)

Hugh Morrison reported that the purpose of the Open Evening was to allow people the opportunity to discuss community services. Scourie Community Council has expressed discontent that a Brora location is very inconvenient for those who live on the West Coast.

2.10 Dog Fouling Campaign

Repairs are needed to the dog waste bins.

Action: Gary will purchase 2 latches and will repair the bins; the Community Council will pay for the latches.

2.11 Dentist for the North West

There has been no word.

2.12 Football Pitch

There has been no word.

2.13 Fish Market

Christine reported that Tony Usher is planning to upgrade the market with refrigerated sections.

2.14 Bus from Lairg

There has been no word.

2.15 Loch Clash Project

The project is progressing but very, very slowly.

2.16 Sandwood

It is hoped that signage for the Sandwood Bay path will be in place by April.

2.17 North and West Sutherland Trust

The North and West Sutherland Trust has now been established formally. We are now awaiting the outcome of whether the Creag Riabhach Wind Farm goes ahead or not.

2.18 Benches at Droman

There has been no progress on the repainting of benches at Droman.

2.19 Clothing Donations

Unwanted clothing may be dropped off at the High School for collection by Blythswood.

2.20 Super Fast Broadband

Gary has contacted HIE and has been assured that Kinlochbervie is still on track for super fast broadband. HIE anticipates that KLB will have access to this in 2016.

3.0 Treasurer's Report

The bank balance stands at £3,568. Expenses this month included £385 for Christmas light repairs and £104 in connection with the War Memorial as well as a few other minor expenses. The Council received its annual grant from Highland Council of £916. The Treasurer's Report was filed.

4.0 Correspondence

There have been several emails regarding a letter sent by the Community Council to a resident regarding cows fouling the roads. It was felt that this was an issue of general public concern and therefore an appropriate matter for the Community Council. It was agreed that correspondence should have been sent to the Grazings Committee rather than to an individual.

Action: *John Mann will contact the correspondent and state that the Community Council has discussed his concerns and agree that the entire matter should have been handled differently by the Council.*

5.0 A.O.C.B.

5.1 Alcohol Limits

PC Ian Sutherland reported that the legal limit for alcohol was being reduced on Friday and would bring Scotland into line with Europe. A new Rural Roads Policing Unit will be starting up shortly.

5.2 Minute Secretary

Alison Sinton has resigned as Minute Secretary. Margaret Meek is filling in for this meeting.

Action: *Christine will advertise the position in time to appoint someone for the next meeting.*

6.0 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 3 February 2015 at the Harbour Offices at 7:00 pm