

# KINLOCHBERVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of Meeting held on 03.03.15 at The Harbour Offices

**Present:** John Mann (Chair), Christine Mackenzie (Treasurer), Murdo MacPherson (Secretary), Kirsty Holland, Angus Ross

**Also Present:** Hugh Morrison (Highland Councillor), Graham Wild (Kinlochbervie Community Company), Margaret Meek (Minute Secretary)

**Apologies:** Mairi Eastcroft, Gary Sutherland, Ian Sutherland

### 1.0 Minutes of 03.02.14

The minutes of the meeting held on 03.02.15 were proposed for approval by Christine and seconded by Kirsty. Approved.

### 2.0 Matters arising from Minutes of 03.02.14

#### 2.1 Laxford

The sign project is progressing.

#### 2.2 Ambulance Service

The fourth person is now in place and is currently away for training.

The helicopter landing pad at Lairg is getting lights next week; this means that night flights will be possible from Lairg.

#### 2.3 Highland Small Communities Trust – Manse Road House

Graham Wild has done the business plan which is currently being circulated for comment. It is hoped to hear back by the second half of March.

The direct contact at the Highlands and Islands Social Enterprise Zone (HISEZ) is Karen Maclean Yuille - Business Adviser.

## 2.4 Geopark

Murdo reported that:

- The next meeting will be Thursday 5 March 2015 in the new Geocentre in Unapool; the revised Business Plan will be presented at this meeting.
- The Unapool Geocentre will have a café and shop for local crafts,
- Laura Hamlet (Information Officer) is organising a Climbing Festival at Reiff and at the Lochinver Climbing Wall; she is looking at crowdfunding as well as making direct contact with potential investors.
- The Unapool Geocentre will be temporary until the main centre is opened in Scourie.
- There are a couple of Geopark-related events at the high school: (1) Geopark and tourism project and (2) some Higher pupils are looking at the potential economic benefits of the Geopark as part of their coursework.
- Funding is being sought for Geopods – these are small information buildings.

**Action:** *Murdo will ask Gary about converting the newsletter into a PDF document.*

## 2.5 Core Paths

Murdo reported that the quote for the building work (just over £5,000) has gone to Matt Dent. Some questions remain to be answered; e.g. comment from SEPA. Matt Dent is optimistic about funding the project and suggested that we get a further quote for the second part of the project.

Although Matt Dent is unable to fund a new bridge, it would be a good idea to get a quote for the whole job. As Highland Councillors will receive their new discretionary budgets on 1<sup>st</sup> April, it may be possible to request funds for the new bridge from this source.

**Action:** *Murdo will get a price for the whole project including the construction of a new bridge.*

## 2.6 Notice Board

Gary has repaired the Board. Graham reported that the Rhichonich notice board has been started.

## 2.7 Kinlochbervie High School Community Gym

The school and Highland Council are looking at modifying doors within the school so that the gym may be accessed from outside when the school is closed. Quotes have been obtained. It is planned that the school will pay one-half and the remainder will come from the Ward Discretionary Fund.

## 2.8 Dentist for the North West

There is nothing further to report..

## **2.9 Football Pitch and Play Park**

Graham reported that there has been a meeting and the further meetings are scheduled. Contractors have been invited to submit bids for the job and will be making a site visit later this week. The Kinlochbervie Planning for Play Association is the lead group. Alan Jones Associates are managing the process.

The play park site is leased from Highland Council; this will need to be renewed shortly.

**Action:** *Hugh Morrison will look into who to contact about getting the lease extended.*

## **2.10 Bus from Lairg**

Hugh reported that Highland Council is asking all Sutherland transport operators to re-tender in light of budget cuts. The contracts will be for 5 years and will start in October. The Council is hosting a meeting in Durness on 17<sup>th</sup> March to discuss transport issues and bus usage. This is an opportunity to have input regarding service improvement in Sutherland.

## **2.11 Loch Clash Project**

Graham reported that a meeting has now taken place and the project is progressing quickly. Highland Council has allocated £52,000 for site clearance. The contract must be awarded by 31<sup>st</sup> March.

## **2.12 Sandwood**

This project is progressing.

## **2.13 North and West Sutherland Trust**

The Creag Riabhach Wind Farm application may be considered in May. The Wind Farm developers have asked that the Kinlochbervie Community Council send them a letter of support.

A vote was taken as to whether the Council should send a letter of support; the results were 3 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstaining.

**Action:** *Gary will be asked to send a letter of support.*

## **2.14 Benches at Droman**

The materials have arrived; the work will be done as soon as the weather improves.

## **2.15 Winter Gritting**

Hugh read out a letter written by Jimmy Gray (Convenor of Highland Council). His view is that all priority roads will continue to be pre-gritted. Almost one-third of roads don't receive a pre-grit at the present time. Council engineers believe that pre-gritting on little-used roads is not effective. He also believes that the current service has been as good or better than previous years.

The Council's cost cutting proposals will amount to a savings of £120,000. A decision has not yet been made by Council. The proposal will be considered on 12<sup>th</sup> March.

## **2.16 Vodafone**

As Vodafone service resumed shortly after the last meeting, the letter did not go out.

## **2.17 Storm Damage**

Hugh has looked into the damage beside Loch Clash.

**Action:** *Hugh will coordinate a skip and JCB.*

## **3.0 Treasurer's Report**

There has been no activity since the last meeting.

## **4.0 Correspondence**

### **4.1 Licensing Application – Old School House Restaurant**

John tabled a notification letter from Highland Council regarding the above licensing application. The application can be viewed at the Durness Service Point.

### **4.2 Local Development Plan**

A copy of the plan has been received.

### **4.3 Insurance**

Letter from Highland Council regarding insurance.

### **4.4 Contact Person**

Highland Council is requesting names of a contact person for planning applications. It was agreed that John Mann and Murdo MacPherson be designated as contact people

## **5.0 A.O.C.B.**

### **5.1 Flooding at Achriesgill**

Water coming off the peat road at Achriesgill is causing flooding of the main road.

**Action:** *Hugh will speak to the Roads Department about the situation.*

### **5.2 Oldshoremore Beach**

The recent high tides and storms at Oldshoremore Beach have pushed the sand back completely covering the stairs and creating a wall of sand that appears to be about 4 metres high. New stairs built on the rocks would be good as the stairs built in the sand only last a few years before being completely covered. Everyone agreed on the need to ensure good access to the beach but there was no consensus on how best to get the work done.

### **5.3 Durness Community Council**

Kevin Crowe, the current Chair of Durness Community Council, will be moving to Wick. Scott MacPherson is the new Chair.

### **5.4 Sharing Information with Other Local Community Councils**

It was agreed that sharing information was a good idea.

**Action:** *Margaret will add the Chairs of Durness and Scourie Community Councils to the Minutes mailing list.*

### **5.5 Conflicting Dates**

John reported that he will have a conflict starting in the autumn on Community Council dates. It was agreed to move Community Council dates to the last Tuesday of the month.

The Council has 9 meetings per year; if meetings are moved to the last Tuesday, the “off” months would be December, March and July.

**Action:** *The Council will meet on the last Tuesday of January, February, April, May, June, August, September, October and November – 9 meetings in total.*

## **6.0 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 28 April 2015 at the Harbour Offices at 7:00 pm