

KINLOCHBERVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 03/02/09 at Taigh Ceilidh

Present: Graham Wild (Chairman), John Mann (Vice-Chairman), Christine MacKenzie (Treasurer), Joan Mackay, Sylvia Mackay, Murdo MacPherson and Michael Otter.

Members of the public present: Elaine McHugh and Gary Sutherland.

Also present: Robbie Rowantree (Highland Councillor) and Isobel Patience (Secretary).

Agenda Items

(1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Mairi Eastcroft.

(2) Minutes 04/11/08

The Minutes were proposed for approval by Michael, seconded by John and duly approved.

(3) Matters Arising from the Minutes

(a) Scottish Ambulance Service and Patient Transport

Michael reminded the meeting that a visit from a representative of the Patient Transport Service was long overdue and Graham explained that while conflicting dates had prevented an earlier visit, another invitation would be issued in respect of next month's meeting. This would be advertised to enable members of the public to attend.

With regard to the Ambulance Service itself, Cllr Rowantree advised that a new package of proposals drawn up in consultation with the Local Health Partnership was due to be put before the Cabinet Secretary shortly. An update on progress with recruitment was available from Alan Miller on request.

(b) Marina

It was agreed to ask Tony Usher for a definite date for completion of the new pontoons at the harbour.

(c) Fishermen's Mission

There was no further information on the future use of the Mission building, although it was understood that the flats on the first floor were presently being refurbished.

(d) Website

The new community website was now operational at www.kinlochbervie.info and included a webcam, guestbook, local news and a 'What's On' section. It was also agreed that the community brochure should be added to the website as a pdf download. Any other requests for inclusion, links and supplementary information should be passed to Gary Sutherland on gary@harrowdenit.co.uk.

(e) Fences at Oldshoremore

Graham had mentioned this to the Estate proprietors but it was considered more appropriate to approach the Clerk to the Oldshoremore Common Grazings about the matter. It was therefore agreed to (a) write to her requesting that the crofter be asked to remove the barbed wire from the fence and provide either a gate or a stile to allow unimpeded public access, and (b) contact Matt Dent from the Highland Council to see if funds could be provided for this purpose.

(f) Royal Mail

Graham had not received any reply to his numerous letters and e-mails to Royal Mail concerning the collection and onward transmission of mail from the Community Council area. Cllr Rowantree suggested that Postwatch may have a role and it was agreed to make contact via its website.

(4) Treasurer's Report

Christine reported current funds of £1286.00 of which £337.00 would have to be paid out for the community brochure given that no money had been forthcoming from the Fire Service or the Ward discretionary budget. Graham suggested that the discretionary budget payment of £300.00 may now be in the account and

Christine undertook to check before Graham made further enquiries about it. She also agreed to ask Teco again about the Fire Service contribution of £100.00.

(5) Correspondence

The following items of correspondence had been received and those of a public nature were available for inspection at the North and West Sutherland Advice and Information Service at the harbour:

1. Agendas for Caithness, Sutherland & Easter Ross Licensing Committee and Licensing Board, 10/11/08
2. Notification of military flying activity, 17 – 27 November 2008
3. E-mail from George Jack, HIE: Community Development
4. NHS Highland Team Update Newsletter, Issue 52
5. E-mail from John Muir Trust: community energy issues
6. Letter from Highland Libraries: High Societies interactive website
7. North & West Sutherland Local Health Partnership Agenda 04/12/08
8. John Muir Trust Climate Challenge Fund and Energy Saving Scotland presentations
9. SNH booklet 'The Nature of Scotland' and Corporate Strategy leaflet 2008-2013
10. Sutherland Local Plan Deposit Draft and Revised Environmental Report, November 2008
11. Northern Constabulary Policing Update to 31/10/08 and Public Performance Report 07/08
12. North & West Sutherland Local Health Partnership Minutes 06/11/08
13. North & West Sutherland Local Health Partnership Minutes 04/12/08
14. Caithness, Sutherland & Easter Ross Licensing Board Agenda 16/12/08
15. Consultation document on Climate Change and the National Forest Estate and covering letter from Mike Russell 11/12/08
16. Leader Development Plan for Sutherland 2008-2013 and covering e-mail from the Sutherland Partnership
17. Invitation to Community Council Seminar, Lairg 03/02/09
18. NHS Highland Team Update Newsletter, Issue 53 and covering letter
19. Highland Council Development Plans Update Newsletter, Winter 2008
20. Letter from Richard Hartland, Head of Planning and Building Standards, 23/12/08: Community Council Observations on Planning Applications
21. North & West Sutherland Local Health Partnership Agenda 08/01/2009 and accompanying paper entitled Scottish Ambulance Service in Remote and Rural Areas
22. Letter from Rhoda Grant MSP re lease of Forestry Commission estate
23. Notification of licensing conversion application – Bervie Stores
24. Invitation from Association of Scottish Community Councils to an MSP Question Time in Elgin, 21/03/09
25. E-mail from John Muir Trust: sustainability/climate change blog
26. E-mail from Cllr Farlow: Community Bus Application
27. E-mail from Isabel Matheson, Highland Libraries: High Societies interactive website
28. NHS Highland Team Update Newsletter, Issue 54

29. E-mail from John Muir Trust: Community Foundation Express Grants Scheme
30. North & West Sutherland Local Health Partnership Minutes 08/01/2009
31. North & West Sutherland Local Health Partnership Agenda 05/02/2009.

With regard to item 26, Cllr Rowantree explained that although the Highland Council's Resource Monitoring Working Group had awarded a grant for the Kinlochbervie bus, the matter had been withdrawn from consideration at the subsequent TECS Committee and would not now be confirmed until the next TECS Committee in March. At that stage a corresponding payment would also be triggered from the Sutherland Partnership Transport Forum.

With regard to item 29, Graham noted that it may be worth keeping this source of funds in mind for small community projects.

(6) AOCB

(a) Winter Gritting

It was noted that lack of gritting during a recent wintry spell had prevented carers and medical personnel reaching elderly people living off the main routes. Cllr Rowantree commented that while representations should have been made when the Winter Maintenance Plan was first circulated, it may still be possible to introduce an element of local flexibility into the plan. Graham agreed to see Henry Flett about this.

(b) Planning Applications

In response to a question from Michael, Graham confirmed that notifications of planning applications were still being received on a regular basis and displayed at the portakabin. It was suggested that the Community Council should use this facility to encourage relevant planning applicants to include disabled access facilities as part of their projects.

(c) Viewpoint

Graham had passed on a package of photos, plans and maps to Duncan Macleod as Clerk to the Badcall Inchard Common Grazings Committee and had asked for the Committee's consent to the proposed development. It was intended to include an all-abilities viewpoint and a further viewpoint at the very top of the hill.

(d) Sheep

It was remarked that sheep were moving freely through the village again and Graham undertook to discuss the question of appropriate fencing with the crofter concerned.

(e) Robert MacBeath Memorial Project

Murdo updated the meeting on the progress of this project, which was now at the stage of applying for funding. All going well, the monument to Robert MacBeath VC would be built by school pupils under the supervision of a stonemason, and a day of celebration would be organised for its unveiling. In the meantime, relevant information would be added to the community website.

(f) Kinlochbervie Community Company

Graham asked the meeting to give some thought to any projects suitable for tackling under the auspices of the Community Company, which could be discussed as an agenda item for next month's meeting.

(g) Post of Community Council Secretary

Given that Isobel would be leaving the area to take up new employment in Caithness in April, Elaine McHugh had kindly volunteered to take over as Secretary with effect from the April meeting.

(7) Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Community Council was scheduled for 7.00 p.m. on 03/03/09 at Taigh Ceilidh.

The meeting ended at 8.30 p.m.