

KINLOCHBERVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 03.11.09 at Taigh Ceilidh

Present: Graham Wild (Chairman), John Mann (Vice Chairman), Christine Mackenzie (Treasurer), Sylvia Mackay, Angus Ross, Murdo MacPherson, Stuart McHugh, Mairi Eastcroft

Members of the public present: Jasmine and Kirsty (local Ambulance Technicians)

Also present: George Farlow (Highland Council), Elaine McHugh (Secretary)

Agenda Items

(1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Michael Otter, Cllr Robbie Rowantree and David Halpin

(2) Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting were proposed for approval by Stuart and seconded by Angus and duly approved.

(3) Matters Arising from the Minutes

(a) Submarine Incident

Since publishing the Agenda, apologies had been received from David Halpin that he was unable to attend due to being suddenly called away. He endeavours to be at the December meeting. However, discussion took place around the table about the Laxford Bridge incident. Graham advised that posters had been displayed requesting local organisations and businesses, which had incurred additional costs due to the closure and weight restrictions, to record their losses. Cllr Farlow confirmed that it was an insurance issue, with Highland Council claiming from the MOD. He recommended that a letter from the CC, to include Durness and Scourie, be sent to the Director of TECS regarding an insurance claim. The next TECS meeting is scheduled for 19 November.

In respect of safety, Cllr Farlow raised the issue of ideally widening the bridge and dual tracking the remainder of that road. Funding could be forthcoming and he would be happy to take it forward. Questions were raised, however, as to whether the bridge was listed and any restrictions that might exist. It was confirmed that there are but any alterations would retain the integrity of the existing bridge. The land surrounding the bridge is probably in the ownership of the Duke of Westminster's Estate. Graham then read a letter to the meeting from a local member of the community in response to a piece in the Northern Times which set out the member's views and thoughts on the incident. Copies would be available to Committee members.

Suggestion was made that it might be worth approaching MOD to see if they would be willing to give assistance and/or involvement in any projects in Kinlochbervie as a public relations exercise. Cllr Farlow, who had attended MOD Liaison Meetings in Durness, thought it would be useful for KLBCC to attend one of these in order to see how things worked. Committee happy to do this.

(b) Patient Transport Service (PTS)

Notes taken by Michael Otter at the Public meeting between the SAS, NHS and PTS held in Ullapool on the 12 October, had previously been circulated to members of the Committee. Michael's notes and comments made many valid points. It is understood, that following an advert in the local press for a driver to transport patients to hospital appointments in Inverness (with the provision of a car), the post was now filled although the start date was unknown, Cllr Farlow said he would speak to Linda Kennedy to ascertain this. This is a pilot project for six months and all agreed it was important that it was used to its full potential and that the need for this service was proven and expanded.

Concerns again were raised as to the criteria for use of this service. It was felt that if it was only used to transport those patients with 'clinical needs' thereby excluding those who were simply elderly, without transport or who did not drive, then the car and driver could be sitting around at times, when he or she could be utilised to assist all the above mentioned patients of the Kinlochbervie area with appointments. It was reiterated that local GPs had agreed to note on a patient's record, and in the letter for an appointment, that transport to/from hospital would be required. Mention was also made that if a patient was refused transport then a form IR1 needed completing. Sylvia is attending a meeting of a group dealing with many NHS matters including PTS on 27 November and it was thought that Michael Otter might benefit from attending this with her.

Cllr Farlow asked about feedback on First Responders. Graham confirmed negative but thought that Dr Berry might be following up. Cllr Farlow confirmed that the fourth ambulance technician was to start the following Monday and he would speak with Alan Miller to chase up on fifth operative. This is very important as single manning is still proving a problem with ambulances from other areas being called to assist, which impacts upon response times. Cllr Farlow would also ask Alan Miller for a report on the responses to IR1s.

(4) Treasurer's Report

Christine reported that there was £935.00 in the Bank and that she was putting together the accounts for the grant for the next financial year. The Wreath for the Remembrance Sunday service had been acquired and it was agreed that if Andy was available he would lay it, if not Graham was happy to do it. The Whist Drive nights were due to start at the Rhiconich next week and it was confirmed that one night's proceeds would be for the Memorial Fund.

(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. Emails, Liz Manson:

- NWSLHP: Agenda for 05.11.09 meeting at Bettyhill Hotel plus notes of last meeting held at Rhiconich Hotel on 01.10.09.
- Attaching Prescribing Report for North CHP LHP Meetings

2. Emails, Fran Loots (JMT):

- Home loans for energy measures
- Blog on central heating

3. Highland Council:

- Letter re E-planning – Electronic Consultation Process.
- Letter re Draft Local Transport Strategy – Feedback encouraged.
- Email, Andy Mackay with letter to CCs re Planning Reform (revised).
- Email, Andy Mackay. Seeing communities' views on tackling Highlands Housing issues – newsletter and survey.

4. Catalogue from Wicksteed Playscapes (play equipment)

5. Letter from Association of Scottish Community Councils regarding of services to non-member Community Councils.

6. SNH – autumn edition of *The Nature of Scotland*

7. Email, Anne Macrae – CSER Planning Applications and Agenda for 03/11/09 meeting.

8. NHS Highland, October Team Update

Item 3 – Highland Council, Draft Local Transport Strategy. Cllr Farlow mentioned that there are in fact two strategies, the one contained in the letter received above and a second about the longer-term options for the replacement of the post bus services. Input is required from communities on how to make an integrated transport system work. Graham explained that the Community Bus could become a route on one day a week and that could attract funding.

(6) AOCB

(a) CVS North

A letter had been received from CVS North with a request for a donation of £250.00 towards developing a youth project – the North West Sutherland Youth Experience. Graham outlined the contents to the Committee and it was agreed that a letter of support and financial help would be sent.

(b) Visit to High School by Inspectors

Murdo had been asked by Ian to mention a visit by school inspectors week commencing 23 November. This will involve not only the school itself but beyond to find out about community learning and development. This will include the North West Training Centre and the After-school Co-ordinator. The inspectors may wish to speak to people in the community, particularly Committee members, in respect of how community learning impacts on the wider community and individuals.

(c) Problems with Stags

John expressed his concern about the problem with stags on roads and asked for any suggestions on tackling it. It was pointed out that fencing along the Scourie to Laxford road, that had recently been erected, had the effect of channelling the deer more towards Laxford Bridge. It was mentioned that the Deer Commission did have a culling programme and it was agreed that Graham would raise a letter to the Westminster Estate regarding culling. Cllr Farlow said that a decrease in speed whilst not stopping a collision could lessen the impact. Incident forms should be completed and submitted to PC Sutherland, Graham Wild or any member of the Committee.

(d) Sheep in KLB

It was noted that sheep were still appearing in KLB, Graham said he would have another word with the crofter.

(e) Robert McBeath Memorial

Following agreement for signage to the Memorial, Graham asked George whom in Highland Council he should contact. After confirmation that the sign should be a brown tourist directional sign George said he would check and let Graham know.

(f) North West Sutherland Local Plan

Graham confirmed he was completing the feedback form.

(g) Village Hall

Graham raised the question of giving support to the Village Hall and put it to the meeting that CC meetings be transferred there. Members felt they would like to know how much they charge for the hire of the hall before committing also how would this effect the Taigh Ceilidh. The Taigh Ceilidh was consulted and is happy with it. However, it was agreed to defer the decision until the New Year when the cost was known.

(h) Ward Forum

The next Ward Forum will take place on 28 November at the Kinlochbervie Hotel from 11.00 am until 2.00 pm. Lunch will be provided. Topics on the Agenda are Tourism and the Community Councils' Review.

(i) Donation to War Memorial Fund

On behalf of the Scottish Ambulance Service, Kirsty and Jasmine presented the Committee with a cheque for £30.00 as a donation towards the Poppy Fund. This was part of the money raised from a very successful and well-supported soup and sandwich lunch at the Taigh Ceilidh last Saturday. On behalf of the Community Graham gave thanks.

(j) KLB CC Constitution

Graham passed round copies of the existing Constitution to Committee members.

(7) Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Community Council was scheduled for 7.00 p.m. on 01.12.09 at Taigh Ceilidh.

The meeting ended at 8.40 p.m.

Approved Minutes of all Meetings can be found on the Kinlochbervie website: www.kinlochbervie.info