

KINLOCHBERVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 06.04.10 at The Village Hall

Present: Graham Wild (Chairman), Christine Mackenzie (Treasurer), Stuart McHugh, Angus Ross, Joan Mackay, Michael Otter

Members of the public present: None

Also present: Robbie Rowantree (Highland Councillor), Elaine McHugh (Secretary)

Agenda Items

(1) Apologies

Apologies were received from John Mann, Mairi Eastcroft, Murdo MacPherson, Sylvia Mackay

(2) Minutes (02.03.10)

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

(3) Matters Arising from the Minutes (02.03.10)

(a) Laxford Bridge Incident - Item 3(e)

A reply from David Halpin was received to the effect that the MoD would be most amenable in giving support to a project as part of a PR/goodwill exercise. He requests that we provide a detailed summary of the project involved for him to present to the department concerned. One project put forward for consideration is to resurface the path leading from the car park to the beach and unearthing the wooden steps, which are now mostly hidden beneath the sand. The meeting agreed this to be a good choice, however, clarification was needed to establish whether the first section of the path is part of croft land. GW said he would contact Richard Osborne to discuss the boundary situation. **GW to action**

Graham was pleased to report that compensation is to be paid to the three local companies whose businesses were affected due to the Laxford incident. GW wished to record the Council's thanks to John Thurso MP for his part in effecting a most satisfactory outcome.

(b) Ward Forum – Item (3)(b)

The next Ward Forum will take place on 24 April 2010 at Bettyhill and the main theme will be Education, Culture and Sport. It should be remembered that these Forums are public meetings and anyone can attend.

(c) Geopark – Item (7)(a) AOCB

Stuart accompanied Graham and Murdo to a public meeting on the future of the Geopark. The main topic was to look at funding opportunities for Geopark, since funding is crucial to its very existence. Since the meeting Geopark has obtained its Green Card, and financial support has been granted to employ a fund-raising adviser. It was made clear at the meeting that KLB and Durness want to be involved in future decisions. Michael felt that Stuart's representative status on behalf of the Community Council should be formalised. This was put to the rest of the attendant Committee members who agreed and approved. Thus, Stuart was formally nominated.

(d) Loch Clash – Item (3)(f)

Graham advised the meeting that dealings for part of the land will be with Don Fishing – not The Wood Group as previously recorded. A representative will be visiting KLB in the near future to discuss the matter further with Graham and it is hoped agree to a transfer, possibly with caveats. The solicitors are in communication over the Reay Forest pieces and Andy Mackay is moving forward on the portion owned by Highland Council.

(e) Police Open Day – Item (3)(g)

Graham wished to record the local communities thanks to the Police for hosting this event, which was very well attended. A formal letter of thanks will be sent to Chief Inspector Matthew Reiss of Northern Constabulary, also to Scourie and Durness Community Councils for their support. In addition to a substantial police presence, other services included Ambulance, Fire, Coastguard and Mountain Rescue. Also on the agenda was the appearance of the rescue helicopter, however, it was unfortunately called to attend an emergency, nevertheless, visitors were treated to a display by the Dog Handling section and were able to see at close quarters the vehicles and equipment employed by the services. **GW to action letters of thanks**

(f) Fishermen’s Mission – Item (3)(i)

Graham is to meet with Donald Morrison the day following this meeting. The outcome will be made known to the Committee.

(g) Robert McBeath Memorial Signs – Item (3)(h)

Joan asked for an update. Graham confirmed still awaiting news from Colin Simpson (Highland Council Tourism Officer). A check would need to be made on the reprint of the brochure insert to ensure that the Memorial site was included. **GW to action**

(4) Treasurer’s Report

Christine reported that there was £1987.73 in the Bank Account, increase due to receipt of this year’s grant. The Christmas Lights fund shows a healthy balance.

(5) Correspondence

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

Fran Loots – JMT various blogs on:

- Funding Opportunities
- Feeding in Tariffs
- Progress on Insulation
- email regarding Changes to EST grants and loans
- email regarding SNH event on *Small Scale Wind & Micro-renewable Technology*

Highland Council:

- Community Council Insurance Policy Renewal Documents
- Andy Mackay – Agenda for Ward Forum in Lairg (27 March)
- Andy Mackay - Ward Forum Notes of 27 March meeting held at Lairg/Paperwork for meeting at Bettyhill on 24 April
- Ian Hargrave - Update on progress of Review of Community Councils and commencement of 2nd phase of consultation on 1 April 10. Documentation included Main Document plus appendices.

CSER Licensing Committee & Boards – agendas for forthcoming meetings on 16 March 2010

Rural Housing Service – Derek Logie CEO (via Andy Mackay). Opportunities for Empty Homes in association with Channel 4 television.

Army HQ 51 (Scottish) Brigade. Notification of MoD Exercise taking place 12 – 30 April 2010.

NW Sutherland LHP – Notes of 4 March meeting held at Bettyhill.

NHS Highland – March Team Update

War Memorials Trust – Request for permission to use photographs, information and material submitted by KLB CC in 2002 with grant application. This will be used to promote the Trust's work.

Graham read out the email from the Rural Housing Trust to the meeting. The Opportunities for Empty Homes is an initiative in association with Channel 4 whereby run-down empty properties are renovated by a team of local volunteers with the eventual aim of housing a family in need. The meeting heard of a couple of properties that might fall within the criteria, however, it was felt by the meeting that further information should be sought as to the implications. Graham agreed to contact Derek Logie

GW to action

Permission was given to the War Memorials Trust for use of photographs etc.

(6) AOCB

(a) British Red Cross

The organisation has four defibrillator machines and wished to allocate these to four volunteers to be trained in their use – a scheme similar to First Responders. Graham had received interest from two people who are involved in the Coastguard and Fire services. There is currently a machine at the surgery and it is thought the remaining four could be utilised by the area including Scourie and Durness. Once again the question of where the machines would be kept was raised to ensure they were easily available at any time of the day or night. It was suggested that one could be placed at the harbour. We have a contact name at the British Red Cross in Inverness to take this forward.

(b) High School Report

The Community Council was in receipt of a copy letter sent to the HMIE from the school. It sets out the school's concern against the way the inspection and report were carried out. It was felt by the school that the inspection should have been more tailored.

(c) Livestock

Complaints had been received regarding the problem of sheep in KLB, along with mess made by sheep and cattle at Droman and Oldshoremore car parks. Both car parks are owned by Highland Council. Several individuals had approached the stockowner of the Droman sheep but to no avail. It is the intention of the Community Council to write to the owner of the sheep with a copy to JMT and Campbell Stewart (Highland Council) over the condition of the car park. The problem at the OSM car park is to do with free roaming cattle. It is understood that land recently purchased from JMT is not fenced thus allowing the cattle to wander into the car park itself. Following discussion Cllr Rowantree advised members that the legal position regarding croft land and fences needed to be ascertained. The meeting agreed this way forward along with the letter to Highland Council.

In respect of the sheep in KLB village, a suggestion was made for the cattle grid on the Oldshoremore road just along from the Council Depot to be taken out and re-positioned just south of the KLB Hotel adjacent to the junction of the road and driveway to the houses on the left. This could possibly address the other problem of lying water by routing the surface water off the main road beneath the grid and away. Graham said he would mention it to Henry. **GW to action**

(d) Car Wrecks

Complaints had been received about the old cars gathering on the piece of ground at Inshegra. Complaints had been received. It is understood that some are due to be removed soon. A question was asked as to the ownership of the piece of land. **GW to speak to Henry to ascertain if owned by Highland Council.**

(e) HIE – Development Officers

Five Development Officers are being appointed in fragile areas to assist Community Councils with advice and projects. Durness is to benefit from one of these officers, however, it appears that KLB may have been bypassed. Cllr Rowantree is meeting with Roy Kirk and said he will raise this with him, however, he feels that it might be the Officer for Durness will have a wider remit that will include KLB rather than KLB having its own officer. **RR to action**

(7) Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 7.00 pm on 4 May 2010 in the Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 8.10 pm.

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