

KINLOCHBERVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 07/07/09 at Taigh Ceilidh

Present: Graham Wild (Chairman), Christine MacKenzie (Treasurer), Murdo MacPherson, Joan Mackay, Sylvia Mackay

Members of the public present: Stuart McHugh

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

Agenda Items

(1) Apologies

Apologies were received from John Mann (Vice-Chairman), Michael Otter, Mairi Eastcroft.

(2) Minutes – 02/06/09

Spelling mistake under Section 3, Item (l). Heading should read CDP/Community Company. In addition, the date of the inaugural meeting is 8th July and not the 1st. Under Section 6, Item (d) it should be noted that the Community Council would not have any input in how the Fund is administered, therefore the sentence beginning in line five should read: “The account, which could be a type of “Friends Of...” scheme, would require three external signatories to be appointed to authorise withdrawal of funds, two of these being Kinlochbervie Community Council committee members.” With these amendments, the notes of the meeting held on 2 June 2009 were accepted as correct by Christine and seconded by Sylvia.

(3) Matters Arising from the Minutes

(a) Patient Transport Service

Following an email from Stephanie Phillips (Strategy SAS group), which was circulated to all the committee, feedback via email was received from Michael Otter, which Graham read out to the meeting. Cllr Rowantree restated the need to raise the issue of remote rural response times in association with the Strategy and highlighted the importance of everyone responding to keep up the momentum and our concerns in the spotlight. It was agreed that we accept the opportunity to host a presentation as offered by the Strategy Group and discuss the outcome at the next meeting (September).

(b) Marina

Graham still needs to check the situation with John George or Rachel regarding using the CCTV at the harbour in order to ascertain a true picture of the uptake. In the meantime it would be useful to obtain an average number of yachts mooring week on week. Feedback suggests that the new facilities are being well received.

(c) Fishermen’s Mission

Graham reported that following a conversation with the owner, no further information or comment was forthcoming.

(d) Viewpoint

Duncan Macleod was very supportive of this initiative and suggested an alternative route that could address concerns raised by the crofters. If access were gained by going up the side of the fence, this would make for a more interesting route and would mean there would be no need to split the land. Graham himself had walked this route and explained it in detail to the meeting who then agreed to him revisiting the crofters with this new idea.

(e) Signs

Henry will begin to erect these on Wednesday 8th July. However, the sign makers mistakenly reversed the three ‘finger point’ signs so that they are facing the wrong direction. This is easily rectifiable and the work will begin.

(f) Community Bus

Graham is in the process of obtaining four quotes for the new bus from Fiat, Peugeot, VW and Mercedes. Cllr Rowantree mentioned that he might also consider Western Commercials of Edinburgh and Glasgow.

(g) Sheep

There have been no reports of sheep roaming Kinlochbervie over the last month. The crofter reports that there is more work to be done to prevent further problems in the future.

(h) CDP/Community Company

Any decision to disband the CDP was held over until the inaugural meeting of the Community Company, which will take place on Wednesday 8th July.

(i) Houses for Teachers

Cllr Rowantree reported that the Council has no leverage over the Education Authority as to allocation of property. It was understood that the people in the Key House were currently trying to buy a property. If this was the case then it was hoped that the Key House could be used to accommodate the incoming probationary teachers. It seems there is some confusion over who owns the Key House and both Graham and Cllr Rowantree agreed to look into this.

(j) Submarine incident

David Halpin has agreed to attend the next (September) meeting.

(4) Community Council Elections

Graham reiterated that these need to be held in October and was considering a postal vote as this seems to have worked well in other areas. Graham wished to start the preparation process now (drafting ads, forms etc) and Cllr Rowantree suggested he get in touch with Andy Mackay to assist as he was well versed in the procedure. It was agreed that 12 would be a beneficial number and this would consist of 10 elected places and two co-opted. Graham volunteered to draft a brief newsletter in support of the elections covering the remit of the Council and how it has worked for the community in the past, it was agreed to be a good idea.

(5) Treasurer's Report

There was no change to the Treasurer's Report as reported at 02/06/09.

(6) 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. Email, NHS Highland with:
 - invite to Annual Review with the Scottish Government – 30 June
 - request to consider helping NHS Highland develop key *Patient Focus & Public Involvement Actions for 2009/10*.
2. Email, Cllr George Farlow regarding Patient Transport Service and Incident Report forms.
3. Northern Constabulary enclosing Policing Update.
4. Email, William Sutherland:
 - invitation/Agenda to Sutherland Partnership AGM, 1st July Lairg Community Hall
 - Draft Minutes of last AGM
 - Annual Report and Financial Statements 2008/09
5. Invergordon CC. Notification and Invitation to attend an open meeting regarding objections to the proposed "Waste to Energy" (Incinerator) Plant at Invergordon.
6. Email, Liz Manson:
 - Notes of 4 June NWSLHP meeting
 - Agenda for 2 July NWSLHP Meeting at Tongue
 - Community Care Restructuring CSER Update
 - Care at Home Structure List
7. Email, Geraldine Sutherland. Agenda for 22/06/09 CSER Licensing Board Meeting.
8. Email, Anne MacCrae. Agenda for 23 June CSER PARC Meeting.
9. NHS Highland. Notification of Postponement of NHS Highland Annual Review in June due to current flu situation.
10. David Stewart MSP notifying launch of a public consultation document setting out proposals to create a *Victims' Commissioner for Scotland*.

11. Email, Fran Loots (JMT)
 - Useful information and tools
 - New Blog
 - Information on the Forest Education Initiative.
12. Email, Amy Ferguson. Ward Forum Notes for 30 May meeting at Tongue plus Equal Opportunities & Monitoring Form.
13. Highland Council. *Highland Archaeology Festival: 3-18 October 2009.*
14. Email, Simon Hindson (Highland Council). *Highland wide Local Development Plan Blog.*
15. Email, Andy MacKay with News Release. *Major Consultation Planned over Community Councils Review.*
16. Highland Council re. *Quality Awards 2009.*

Item 4 – Graham attended the Sutherland Partnership AGM, which he found interesting and informative. Cllr Rowantree confirmed his continuation as Chairman of the SP. Graham also mentioned his attendance at the recent Ward Forum meeting and that once again the splitting of attendees into Workshops worked very well. If anyone wanted something brought up at the next Ward Forum meeting in Ardgay, please let him know.

Item 16. – If there is any particular Highland Council individual or team that you feel has excelled in their duty to the community please let Graham know.

(7) AOCB

Murdo attended a Geopark meeting last week and updated the meeting. One development is the Orcadian Stone Company who has a large exhibition in Golspie. Although it is located on the east coast much of the exhibition largely relates to the Assynt area. Orcadian wanted to donate the exhibition to an interested party but now wishes to sell it. The exhibition could be bought commercially but it would be more appropriate and beneficial for the Geopark to be the recipient. Although the exhibition could be split over various parts of the Geopark, ideally it would be better to keep it together for cohesion and maximum impact. The exhibition is very large (currently displayed over two floors) and a substantial building would be needed to house it. The Old Harbour building has been mentioned as a possible location. The benefits to the community could be enormous as the exhibition would potentially be a large draw for visitors. Graham volunteered to speak to George on behalf of the Community Council to register its interest.

(8) Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed for a summer recess during August. Therefore, the next meeting of the Community Council was scheduled for 7.00 p.m. on 1 September at Taigh Ceilidh.

The meeting ended at 8.15 p.m.

Approved Minutes of all Meetings can be found on the Kinlochberrie website: www.kinlochberrie.info