

KINLOCHBERVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 07.09.10 at The Village Hall

Present: Graham Wild (Chairman), John Mann (Vice Chairman), Christine Mackenzie (Treasurer), Stuart McHugh, Angus Ross, Joan Mackay, Michael Otter, Murdo MacPherson

Members of the public present: None

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

Agenda Items

(1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Mairi Eastcroft and Sylvia Mackay,

(2) Minutes (06.07.10)

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

(3) Matters Arising from the Minutes (06.07.10)

(a) Patient Transport - Item (3)(c)

Michael commented that this Minute was very supportive and asked if the meeting was happy for him to convey this to the PTS, however, he felt that the last sentence regarding finding other ways to fund this initiative should not be passed on as it should be public funded.

(b) Football pitch/grass cutting - Item (3)(d)

Graham mentioned the Raft Race scheduled for this weekend and hoped it would be well supported. As there had been no response from John Macdonald of Education, Leisure & Sport regarding the grass cutting, Graham approached Henry who arranged for the cutting of pitch in readiness for this Saturday. John Macdonald is also responsible for the status of the school - see Item (6)(h) in 6 July Minutes. The contents of our letter to Graham Nichols regarding this have been passed on to John Macdonald, but to date no reply has been received in respect of either of these two issues. Michael stated that in the beginning it was meant to be a community school and a library, open to the public, was also available at one point. Stuart asked the Chairman whether we should approach Mr Macdonald's boss to alert him of the non-responses. Graham agreed we should write again to Graham Nichols regarding both issues. With regard to the fitness room it was felt that from a health and safety aspect, it might be argued that the school needs to be open as a precaution should something occur.

Subsequent to these minutes, Cllr Rowantree had contacted John Macdonald to enquire as to why we have not received a response.

(c) Bench at Droman - Item (3)(e)

Graham confirmed that the replacement bench from KLB Hotel is in place at Droman. However, the walkway is still to be repaired. Graham suggests that rather than go through Sango Bay, he could obtain the materials through the garage and asked for Christine's agreement, which was given.

(d) Litter - Item (6)(d)

Graham said that litter was still a problem and was convinced that given the type of litter left, i.e. crisp packets, soft drink cans, sweet papers, it was a younger element that was responsible. Graham had produced laminated posters downloaded from the *Keep Scotland Tidy* website and asked the meeting for suggestions for appropriate places for display. It was agreed: OSM beach car park, JMT car park at Blairmore, picnic sites. It is hoped that the posters will help both local people and tourists to take responsibility for their litter so that our area maintains its natural beauty. Another point raised was the bins not being secured properly; they should be locked into the stand, which helps to keep the lids from blowing up in high winds. Cllr Rowantree suggested we contact Andy Mackay to ask that waste bins be secured properly following emptying. **GW to action**

(e) Sheep - Item (3)(i)

The reply to our letter to the Crofters Commission suggested we approach the owner of the sheep direct, however, despite many requests to this effect sheep are still a problem in the centre of KLB. The Commission also sent a copy of our letter to the Grazings Clerk but to date no response has been forthcoming. It was stated that this is not confined to just KLB village, sheep also roam at Achrieshall, Rhiconich, and the Durness road but is not seen as a concern there. The Chairman said KLB was slightly different as they roam freely through village and their mess could become a problem with it being trod into public buildings, an example of this is the Health Centre. It is fully appreciated that sheep must pass through the village for transfer to different croft land and this is not a concern as they would be under control. It was agreed to go back to the owner once again. **GW to action**

(f) Police Area Command Planning Day – Item (5) (Correspondence)

Graham represented the Community Council at this day on 19 August. The main theme was the prioritising of crime into categories of very high, high and medium. There was also talk about imminent cuts and how Northern Constabulary are to pare down the time spent by officers on paperwork so that more police are out on the streets. Cllr Rowantree suggested that due to the budget pressures on police, a point of concern might be the recent announcement of an idea being mooted of having either just one force for the whole of Scotland or possibly only three regions. He felt we should be ready to act if this comes to the fore to say that we like the fact that we have our own force with its local knowledge and would wish to retain this, especially as we have a reduced force locally as it is. A formal consultation would take place, which would give us an opportunity to air our concerns. It was announced at the Planning Day that no more recruitment or the replacement of retirees would take place over the next two years. Another idea being considered was the use of shared facilities of the emergency services. Graham mentioned the Youth Liaison Officer who is available to communities and she is willing to attend Community meetings as well as school visits, although our own policeman, Ian, has always been willing to do this.

(g) Core paths – Item (6)(g)

Matt Dent has placed an order for way markers for Loch Innes and our bid for funding to provide money for materials to repair the old road has been submitted.

(4) Treasurer's Report

Christine reported £1368.00 in bank account, £1847.00 in Christmas Lights fund. The wreath has been bought for Remembrance Day to be laid at the War Memorial and there are a couple of hundred pounds in the fund that should cover wreaths for the next couple of years.

(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:

- Email advising of closure of Energy Saving Scotland Home Renewables grant scheme.
- Blog on Development Trusts
- Last blog from Fran Loots as her post of Communities Officer ends under the new structure in JMT.

NWSLHP:

- Notes of 1 July meeting plus Agenda for next one on 5 August 2010.
- Notes of 5 August meeting plus Agenda for next one on 2 September 2010.
- Review of Midwifery Services

Highlands and Islands Regional Labour MSPs: Letter giving update on development for Better Broadband now that the new government at Westminster has taken office.

Highland Council:

- New leaflet and posters from Am Baile (Highland Council's bilingual website).
- Agenda for East Sutherland & Edderton Ward Forum on 10 July following invitation to attend to hear presentation on new initiatives by Highland Council Social Workers.
- Quality Awards 2010 – request for nominations.
- Papers for Ward Forum on 18 September at Scourie Village Hall plus notes of last meeting.

SMP Playgrounds – latest newsletter on play equipment for parish and community councils.

NHS Highland

- July team update
- Summary of survey results from the *Better Together Patient Experience Programme*.

MoD:

- Notification of Exercises taking place between 18 September and 16 October 2010 (total of four separate exercises)

Ewan Harris Solicitors – In respect of legal procedure to progress transfers of Titles of land at L. Clash.

No Need for Nuclear – enclosing Campaign newsletter and request for support of Early Day Motion in the Commons.

CSER – Agenda for next meetings.

HomeAid: Newsletter. Graham noted that HomeAid is well supported in KLB.

(6) AOCB

(a) War Memorial

Concern had been voiced in the Community with regard to the flying of the St Andrews Flag at the War Memorial. Graham has been trying to ascertain the correctness of this and the British Legion confirmed that it was inappropriate as it is a war memorial site and only the British Union flag should be raised. Cllr Rowantree thought it was within the Council's remit to make a decision to lower the saltire and it was subsequently agreed to arrange for it to be taken down. **GW to action**

(b) Glass Recycling Bin

Another issue concerning the Community was shards of glass lying around the recycling bins. Graham had been along and it appeared someone had cleaned most of it away. It seems to occur when the bin is being emptied into the lorry. Graham suggested mentioning it to Henry to keep an eye on. Cllr Rowantree felt there should be an obligation on the contractor and suggested we contact Andy Mackay with a view to asking the contractor to improve the quality of its work.

(c) Flowers of Remembrance at War Memorial site

A member asked if it was possible to erect a small formal plaque in remembrance in place of the plastic flowers. The Chairman had no objection to this although it was highlighted that the seat, which was provided by the local community through a collection, does display a plaque. Whilst the meeting more than appreciated the sentiments behind the flowers and the sensitive nature surrounding this tragedy, it felt that a more fitting tribute, which met the needs of the family, could be found. Graham agreed to speak to the family and suggest the placing of a trough to be planted with fresh flowers. **GW to action**

(d) Loch Clash

Graham outlined his recent meeting with Ewan Harris solicitors regarding the transfer of land at Loch Clash and the involvement of the Community Company.

(e) Ward Forum

The next Ward Forum is scheduled for 18 September at 11.00am in the village hall. In the absence of the Chairman, Stuart volunteered to go, however, it is open to anyone else who wished to attend. The theme is the Highland Wide Local Development Plan.

(f) Local Development Officer

Graham confirmed that our application had been approved and that the Directors of the Community Company, who is involved as the employer, were now in the process of drawing up the advert using a template supplied by HIE. It should be noted here that following a meeting with HIE it was agreed that for Kinlochbervie the job title will be Community Project Co-ordinator. The Directors of the company are to meet on Thursday to discuss the advert and process involved for taking the recruitment forward. Given past experiences, a concern was raised over the appointment and Graham gave his assurances that the selection process and overseeing of the successful candidate would be handled better this time. He also confirmed that a member of HIE will be on the selection panel.

Graham asked if all members had a copy of the Constitution and to please read it in time for the next meeting.

(7) Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 5 October 2010.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm

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