

ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING WEDNESDAY 27TH MAY 2009 IN ARDGAY HALL

Present:

Tony Gibbs (Chair)	David Hannah (Vice-Chair)
Iain Shand (Secretary & Acting Treasurer)	Jamie Burgess
Liz Cormack	Doreen Gibbs (Minute Secretary)
Alan Lawrence	Phil Olson
David Ross	Marion Turner

In attendance - Councillor Robbie Rowantree
Sgt. Alasdair Goskirk and PC Jill Findlay (Local Police)

1. Welcome

The Chairperson Tony Gibbs opened the meeting and welcomed Jamie Burgess to his first Meeting, and a warm welcome was extended to the two representatives from the Police.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Brigitte Geddes and William Maclaren.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 27th April 2009.

The following amendments to those minutes were requested:-

Minute 5: Achanay Windfarm – To read, “Tony Gibbs said that the expressions of interest to the SCF following the newspaper advert would come to the Community Council who would then decide which two would represent the community on the panel. Lairg CC had chosen to ballot on this same issue and Creich had not yet decided their procedure”.

Beinn Tharsuinn To read – “There was some discussion regarding the unsatisfactory nature of the current administrative procedures and some comment on the excessive amount of money which was being removed from the fund for this service”.

Minute 8 Any other business To read, “There was a discussion of the state of the footbridge at Croick School although no action was requested. In addition to the discussion about the forestry lorries using the Bailey Bridge, Marion Turner raised concern about the damage done to the Oldtown Road by forestry lorries”.

It was also noted that John MacMurray, a visitor at the last meeting, is the new Diocesan Community Outreach Worker for the Dornoch Firth Group of Churches.

These amendments were noted and agreed and the minutes were then approved. Proposed by David Hannah and seconded by Liz Cormack.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

Christmas Lights

The Ardgay Christmas Lights are now being stored in a container in Bonar Bridge, courtesy of Sandy McAughtrie and the Kyle of Sutherland Gala Committee.

Footbridges - Brae and Croick School Bridge

From information presented, it was noted that the Brae Suspension Footbridge was built in the 1930s and financed by public subscription. It is now a listed building. Balnagowan Estates own the land on the north side of the bridge but they deny ownership of the bridge. Land on the south side of the bridge is probably owned by Roddy Macleod of Brae. It is likely that the bridge is not formally owned by anybody. Repairs to the bridge could be costly depending on the extent of the repairs needed. Robbie Rowantree said according to the Technical Services Register both bridges are unadopted and the Highland Council cannot undertake responsibility for repairs in the present economic climate. It was suggested that a request to the Beinn Tharsuinn Community Benefit Fund to finance the work possibly carried out by TEC Services should be made. Phil Olson said he would speak to Matt Dent, Highland Council's Access Officer to see if any funding could be obtained from the Leader Fund to assist with the work.

Website

Phil Olsen presented an update on suggestions for the proposed website. The potential layout would include pages for-

Home Page - ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk

Members

Agenda and Minutes

minutes 27th may 2009

Minutes 27th April 2010

Contact for the next agenda

Projects and Issues

Links (Other CC, Councils, Parliament, other)

Contact us (general contact)

Local Highlights

Business near Ardgay

List with links and details

Descriptions

Youth

Local Organisations

Personal items

Sales and Wants

Announcements

Events Calendar (Categories of Events or of messages)

Events (dated items)

ADCC items

Agenda

Members

HiCouncil items

Transport

Education

Ward Forum

Health

Policing

Business near Ardgay

Youth

Local Organisations

No Category

It was pointed out that agenda & minutes reproduced on the website would be write protected to prevent unauthorised alterations. The cost for the name is £15.00 for two years.

Tony Gibbs thanked Phil Olson and Iain Shand for their work in producing this format . It was agreed that we should proceed to the next stage of the development of the website.

Action PO. & IS

Bus Shelter

No news to date. Tony Gibbs will continue to press this matter with Highland Council. Action TG

Police

Tony Gibbs invited the visiting Police Officers to address the meeting. Sgt. Goskirk began by apologising for a lack of police representation at previous meetings but conflicting duties often prevent regular attendance. He assured the Committee that he does receive copies of agenda and minutes. He then spoke briefly about their work and recent incidents dealt with in the local areas. The majority of offences committed were minor, mostly concerned with motoring and breaches of the peace incidents, and occasionally for drug possession. Members were reminded that one officer, staffs the Bonar Bridge Police Station, but who can be called out at anytime to deal with police business elsewhere. When it is unmanned and police assistance is needed, direct telephone contact can be made with Dornoch Police Station. Mention was made of a new position for an officer to work in schools in Tain to raise awareness of police work. Jamie Burgess asked if the Police could assist with cycle awareness training in the Primary School particularly as there is an increased interest in cycling since the development of the cycle trails at Carbisdale and Balblair.

The Chairperson thanked Sgt Goskirk and PC Findlay for finding the time to come and speak to the meeting and expressed the hope that they will be able to attend future meetings when their duties permit.

3. Secretary's Report

Iain Shand produced letters and correspondence received and invited members to peruse. In view of the volume of correspondence received and in the interest of economy and efficiency, Iain urged members to use websites and emails to communicate wherever possible.

Achany No progress so far with the development of the site.

Selection of Panel Representatives from the Community by the SCF.

Tony Gibbs informed the committee that the SCF had decided to do a telephone interview with each of the non-community council applicants and then make a recommendation. As it has turned out one applicant has withdrawn and the SCF recommends to this CC that the two remaining applicants, Hilda Buchanan and Lynne Burgess should serve on the Panel as community representatives. The Committee agreed to this recommendation. The selection of panel members representing Ardgay & District is now completed and the Induction Meeting for all panel members will be on 17th June 2009.

Flower Tubs

Iain Shand reported that Jeannie Sparling has agreed to plant the flower tubs in the Village, and has requested a sum of £125.00 for the cost of plants etc. Flowers will be purchased from the local shop in Bonar as usual and some from suppliers in Tain (who manage the flower displays in the town). It was agreed that Jeannie should receive an honorarium for this work. The amount to be agreed later. The setting up of a sub-committee for over-seeing projects such as the Christmas Lights and Flower Tubs to be discussed at the next meeting. Action: IS item for next agenda

Toilets

Iain Shand as Acting Treasurer informed the Committee of his concern that he still had not received a cheque from Highland Council for the maintenance of the toilets.

This should have been received by the beginning of the financial year and although he had contacted the Council about this, at the time of the meeting, it had not arrived. Robbie Rowantree said that he would investigate to see if the "contacts list" has been updated to reflect the latest changes. [Action: RR](#)

4. Treasurer's Report

Iain Shand (Acting Treasurer) reported that the accounts are as follows:

Treasurer's Account	£ 822.31p
Projects Account	£1327.87p
Toilets Account	£ 488.54p

The post of Treasurer is still vacant, Iain will continue as acting Treasurer until we are able to find a permanent officer for the post.

The cheque from the Highland Council for the General Account - £1364.40p is due to be received on Monday 1st June 2009.

5. Kyle of Sutherland Initiative

The next meeting of the Initiative will be on Wednesday 3rd June at the Kincardine Heritage Centre, Ardgay, when Business Plan Presentations will be made. The event will be hosted by the Social Enterprise Academy.

6. Forestry Commission

Iain Shand reported that he has received notice of a sale of Woodland adjacent to Ardchronie Quarry. Phil Olson raised the possibility of a Community Buy-out of this land for a Bio-Diversity project. It was agreed that the Secretary would write to the Forestry Commission to register an expression of interest in this sale. This subject to be discussed again at the next meeting when it is thought that Brigitte Geddes might wish to make an input. [Action: IS Item for next agenda](#)

7. Any other competent business.

Data Protection Letter from the Highland Council. A copy of this letter had been circulated previously and members were asked for their comments. Phil Olson felt that the contents of the letter are not relevant to this Committee, as the Community Council does not collect and hold information about the general public. The Committee concurred.

Dornoch Academy Prize Giving – 30th June 2009.

An invitation has been received to attend on behalf of the CC. David Hannah will attend.

Old Town Road – Forestry Lorries

The problems arising from the use of this road by timber lorries was discussed. Robbie Rowantree said that when an extraction licence to fell timber is granted the company has to promise to make good, damage caused by Lorries. It is understood that the Highland Council Roads Department are aware of the problems and matters are in hand to repair the road in due course.

We will continue to monitor this matter.

Transport Survey

David Hannah said that only 12 forms have been returned. He will analyse the findings and report at the next meeting.

Ward Forum – Saturday 31st May in Tongue

Tony Gibbs and Phil Olson will be attending.

8. Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting.

Wednesday 1st July 2009 at 7.00pm in Ardgay Hall.

There being no further business the Chairperson closed the meeting at 9.10pm.

