

ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING WEDNESDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER 2009 IN ARDGAY HALL

Present:

Tony Gibbs (Chair)
Jamie Burgess
Brigitte Geddes
Alan Lawrence
Derek Matheson
David Ross

David Hannah (Vice-Chair)
Liz Cormack
Doreen Gibbs
William Maclaren
Phil Olson
Marion Turner

Visitors - Sheila Fletcher (Guest Speaker from the Community Transport Association) Mr. Bill Stobo (KOSH & GWCA) Mrs. Lorraine Askew and Mr. Kenny Mair (Bradbury Centre).

1. **Welcome**

Tony Gibbs welcomed everyone to the Meeting and informed the Council that unfortunately Iain Shand is still unwell following his recent hospital treatment, and is at present undergoing further tests. Regrettably, Iain has submitted his resignation as Secretary to the Community Council but still wishes to retain his membership of the Community Council. On behalf of the Committee Tony Gibbs will write to Iain accepting his resignation with regret, and conveying our best wishes for an early recovery. We look forward to welcoming him back at our meetings as soon as he is well again.

There were no other apologies.

ACTION: TG TO WRITE TO IAIN.

2. **Matters arising from the previous meeting held on Wednesday 1st July 2009.**

Bus Shelter

The long wait for a Bus Shelter in Ardgay Village has at last ended. A new shelter was installed during the summer and is already much in use by Ardgay bus travelers. The Chairperson thanked our County Councilors and all Community Council members past and present who worked so hard to bring about this much-needed public facility.

Salt Bins

David Ross reported that TECS are happy to supply a salt bin in the lay-by opposite 3 Manse Road and the car park serving Struie Place, and will contribute a sum of up to £500 towards the costs of equipment for volunteers to salt the paths. This would have to be undertaken by volunteers as part of a 'good neighbour' scheme which the Community Council will have to promote. This will be publicised in the next newsletter. A contribution towards the costs of the newsletter is included in the sum of £500 on offer. David will liaise with Tony Gibbs to confirm the final arrangements and acceptance of the offer.

ACTION DR/TG

Kincardine Cemetery

It was reported that repairs to the gate at the Kincardine Cemetery have been carried out and the gate now closes properly. The Chair thanked Brigitte Geddes for her efforts in ensuring this work was carried out.

Culrain Garden

Tony Gibbs reported that he had spoken to the Chairman of the Culrain Village Hall who agreed to pursue this matter further with the Hall Committee and will report on any development.

GUEST SPEAKER – David Hannah introduced Sheila Fletcher from the Community Transport Association, her remit is working with communities to help solve transport problems. She spoke about the particular transport needs of small rural communities. Following the response to our own transport survey in our newsletter, the results showed a need to gather more information on the particular transport needs in our area, and it is hoped that Sheila will be able to offer us advice and support with this. Sheila also spoke about the new minibus recently purchased by the Bradbury Centre for use in transporting members to and from the Centre. It is hoped that local Communities will also make use of the bus for transport and/or for private hire by Community Groups. Drivers of the bus would have to undertake driver training and assessment of driving skills carried out by Midas who provide specialist training for the Community Transport Sector. It was agreed that Ardgay Community Council will be pleased to support and encourage the use of the minibus as much as possible and applauded the Bradbury Centre for this exciting new initiative. Members were invited to inspect the new vehicle, which was driven to the Hall by Mrs. Askew and Mr. Mair. The Chair Tony Gibbs thanked Sheila Fletcher for coming to speak to members and expressed the hope that we would be able to work together on future projects. Mrs. Askew and Mr. Mair were also thanked for attending and allowing us an opportunity to view the new minibus.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 1st July 2009.

The minutes were agreed. Proposed by Liz Cormack and seconded by Phil Olson.

5. Secretary

As the post of Secretary is now vacant due to Iain's resignation, the Chair invited nominations for the post of Secretary. Liz Cormack proposed Doreen Gibbs and David Hannah seconded the nomination. Doreen Gibbs accepted the nomination.

6. Post of Treasurer

Alan Lawrence has agreed to take on the post of Treasurer; the Chairman on behalf of the Committee thanked Alan.

Signature of cheques It was agreed that the signatories of cheques would be the Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer. Arrangements will be made to formalize this with the Bank.

Outstanding payments – There are two outstanding payments at present and these will be paid when the cheque signatures are formalized. [ACTION: TG/DH/AL](#)

Balances to date are:-	Treasurer's Account	£ 2157.47
	Projects	1315.13
	Toilets	1308.81

7. Kyle of Sutherland Initiative

The last meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum. A new date is to be arranged. Phil Olson asked for information about KOSI for inclusion on the Community Website. It was noted that new members are needed.

8. Wind Farms

a) Beinn Tharsuinn _i) Following a meeting with the manager of the Bradbury Centre, Tony Gibbs and David Hannah, it was decided that the Creich Croick and Kincardine Day-Care Association would re-submit their grant application.

ii) Ardgay District Children's Christmas Party for £150.00 is agreed.

[ACTION:TG TO DEAL](#)

_III) Application from G.Pickett for £950.00 – This was not approved as This applicant was requesting a grant in retrospect, on behalf of an individual and not a constituted group. [ACTION:TG](#)

Phil Olson suggested that details of agreed grant applications should be included on the Community Website, a box could be added to the form where applicants can indicate their agreement for the information being made public on the website. [ACTION: PFO TO TELL PHIL TOMALIN](#)

b) Beinn Nan Oighrean – New Windfarm

An email received from Paul Hoggarth (Edderton CC) proposing that a signed agreement between all five parties would allow for a payment of £2500 be paid into bank accounts of the four Community Councils commencing on 1st August 2010 each linked to RPI and to be paid for 25 years and if agreed there would be no need for a formal meeting. On agreement to this approach, the paperwork will be organised. The Council agreed in principle but questioned the RPI, which now is Nil. If this should not rise in the next few years, would this affect the payment causing it to be less than £2500? The Chair agreed to pursue this point.

[ACTION: TG](#)

c) Achany Update

Marion Turner gave an update of the current level reached by the Panel following the last meeting on 19th August 2009. The main issues discussed were Finalising Panel Terms of Reference; Finalising Code of Conduct; Update of Declaration of Interest Register; Update of Skills & Knowledge Register: the Secretariat including expenses; and reviewing the Community Profile and confirming the Fund Purpose and Priorities, Annual Spend, Potential for an Investment fund, Budgeting Allocation, Local Capacity Building, Non-interference with local fund raising, Non-profit and For-profit funding. It was noted that the panel are keeping to the proposed timescale published when the Community Benefit Fund was established at the beginning of the year. SCF will produce a Community Newsletter to keep everyone informed of developments and progress being made by the Panel. Phil Olson asked if minutes of the Advisory Panel meetings could be published on our Community Website.

[ACTION: SCF&MCT](#)

9. Newsletter

David Hannah reported that he had received little feedback from the last edition, and was concerned that not every household had received a copy. However, members felt the overall response is still good, and we should proceed with the next edition, which will be due out in October.

10. Community Website.

This is progressing well and Phil Olson was congratulated on his sterling work. The approved minutes of Council meetings are included on the site as well as minutes of other committee's and the Newsletters. As much information relating to the work of the Community Council, Highland Council and other public bodies are also included. Members of the committee and public are urged to use the site as often as possible as part of the Council's desire to keep everyone in touch with their Community. (www.ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org)

11... Ward Forum

Arrangements are well in hand for the next meeting of the Ward Forum when Ardgay will host the meeting on Saturday 26th September in Ardgay Hall at 11.00am. Liz Cormack confirmed that the refreshments are organized. David Hannah confirmed that the Hall has been booked and he will arrange for the Hall to be open from 10.00a.m. and chairs and tables arranged –Phil Olson will assist.

[ACTION: DH/PO/LC](#)

12. Sutherland Summit

To be held in Lairg on Monday 14th September 2009. Only one delegate per association is allowed and Tony Gibbs will represent Ardgay.

13. Sutherland Local Plan – Examination of Unresolved Issues.

A letter previously circulated to members has been received from the Director of Planning at Highland Council. It was noted that we do not have to take further action in response to the letter. Members questioned the relevance of local plan process.

14. Any other competent business

The Kyle of Sutherland Heritage society will be exhibiting the data collected for their 'Lest We Forget' Project. The Exhibition will be formally open on Friday October 2nd 2009 at 7.30pm in the East Kincardine Church... All members of Ardgay & District Community Council are invited to the opening.

Scottish Water

Phil Olson drew attention to an article reported in the Press & Journal concerning the quality of water supplied to thousands of homes in the Highlands and including as mentioned in the article the condition of water supplied from the Bonar Bridge water treatment plant. The Committee agreed that we should pursue this matter with Colin McLaren the drinking-water regulator and Scottish Water, to ask for an explanation of this situation and to tell us why water tankers were seen supplying the Bonar Bridge treatment plant when rainfall has not been in short supply and what affect these tankers has had on water quality. Phil Olson agreed, on behalf of the Community Council, to write to Colin McLaren for answers to these points.

Shrubbery on corner of A836 Ardgay to Bonar Road

It was noted that the shrubbery on this road needs pruning back as it is impeding the view of the corner for motorists driving to and from Bonar. [**ACTION: SEC TO CONTACT JOHN CLARK**](#)

Grass Verges at Gruinards.

It was noted that these have been cut.

Scotrail Train Services – Culrain and Ardgay

Jamie Burgess noticed that on a recent occasion the local train did not stop at Culrain, resulting in passengers having to arrange for transport back to Culrain. It was agreed that we should write to Frank Roache to ask why trains are not stopping at Culrain and local stations on all services.

[**ACTION: SEC. TO WRITE TO FRANK ROACHE**](#)

Date Time and Venue of next meeting.

Wednesday 7th October 2009 at 7.00pm in Ardgay Hall.

There being no further business the Chairperson closed the meeting at 9.50pm.

Amended minutes as approved