

ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING WEDNESDAY 4th NOVEMBER 2009 IN ARDGAY HALL

Present:

Tony Gibbs (Chair)	David Hannah (Vice-Chair)
Alan Lawrence (Treasurer)	Doreen Gibbs (Secretary)
Jamie Burgess	Liz Cormack
David Laver	William MacLaren
Derek Matheson	Phil Olson
David Ross	Marion Turner
Councillor Robbie Rowantree	

Member of the Public - Mrs R Copley

1. **Welcome** The Chairperson Tony Gibbs opened the meeting with a welcome to members and visitor, and to new co-opted member David Laver.
2. **Apologies** were received from Brigitte Geddes and Iain Shand,
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 7TH October 2009**
The Minutes as presented were approved. Proposed by David Hannah and Seconded by Jamie Burgess.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes**
 - Salt Bins David** Ross reported that a Salt Bin has been filled and installed in Struie Place. A payment from Highland Council towards the costs for tools to grit the pavements will be forthcoming.
 - Culrain Garden.** Tony Gibbs has spoken with the Chairman and the Secretary of the Culrain Hall Committee and unfortunately, they have not been able to recommend anyone to work on the garden. Robbie Rowantree has suggested that we may be able to approach Community Service to consider this project. **Action: Sec**
 - Overhanging shrubs and trees on bridge in Ardgay.** The Secretary reported on the reply received from John Clark that he would pass this to the Landlords on whose land the trees belong, as he cannot cut back trees etc that overhang from adjoining properties. In addition, He mentioned that all road repairs/maintenance etc have ceased due to the current financial situation with the Highland Council.
 - Scotrail Train Services**
The Secretary has received a reply from Frank Roach asking for a clearer idea of what topics we want him to cover when he comes to speak at a future meeting. The Committee suggested, Train Times, Strategy on Service, Future extensions to existing services, cost of fares, transport links to rail and other transport services, Sunday services, existing services stopping at all stations. **Action Sec.**

5. Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported on **correspondence received from**

Ardgay Hall Committee inviting the Community Council to have a stall at the Christmas Fayre on November 28th. It was felt that due to other commitments on that day we would not be able to take up the invitation this year. **Action: Sec to reply**

Director of Planning (Highland Council) informing that all planning applications will be managed electronically. **Action: Item for Newsletter /Website**

The Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society renewal of subscription (£20) is due – agreed. Voluntary Groups East Sutherland AGM invitation on Friday 27th November in Golspie Golf Club. **Action: Sec to reply**

Highland Council Tourism Seminar – Wednesday 25th November in Council Chamber Inverness.

Neil Gillies, Highland Council TECS, in reply to our concerns about Traffic speeds in Manse Road Ardgay. Campbell Stewart will make contact.

Supt. Julian Innes Division Commander North Division, in reply to my letter asking for assistance in the Manse Road matter. Inspector Aitken will contact us about appropriate times and day when they could carry out a speed monitoring exercise.

6 Treasurer's Report Alan Lawrence reported that the three signatories had visited the Bank to formalise the signatures for cheque signings.

Balances are as follows: -	Treasurer's a/c	£ 2092.23	*
	Projects a/c	£ 1315.36	**
	Toilets a/c	£ 949.92	***

Notes: * A payment to Doreen Gibbs of £75.00 honorarium as minute secretary has been made and is not recorded.

** A payment of £250 has been made to Dingwall Printers Ltd for the October newsletter but is not included in this figure.

*** A payment has been made to J. Sparling for the October honorarium but is not included in this figure.

The outstanding balance of £93.68 in petty cash received from Iain Shand has been passed to Doreen Gibbs.

It was agreed that any surplus balances in the Toilets accounts should be transferred to the Projects Accounts. **Action: AL**

7. Windfarms

a) Beinn Tharsuinn Community Benefit Fund

Grant applications have been received from:-

- 1) Bradbury Centre
- 2) Bonar Bridge Football Club
- 3) Gearrhoille Community Wood
- 4) Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society

Mrs Copley spoke on behalf of the Gearrhoille Community Wood in support of their application.

It was suggested that before decisions are made on these applications, it would be beneficial to have further detailed discussion with the applicants to determine more fully the basis for their requests and to gather additional supporting information. It was agreed that Phil Olson and David Hannah will speak to the Bonar Football Club, Tony Gibbs and David Hannah will contact the Bradbury Centre and Phil Olson and Derek Matheson will speak to the Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Centre. Mrs Copley will supply further information on request. The application from the Gearrhoille Community Wood for the sum of £550 to be paid in this year (2009) was agreed. However, the request for the subsequent amounts will be looked at again on receipt of requested further information. Reports from these meetings will be discussed at the next Council meeting in December prior to further consideration of each application.

There was discussion re difficulties of decision making, as there are no clear criteria for Ardgay and District Community Councillor to follow when deciding applications issues around the declaration of interests by Community Councillors were discussed and Councillor Rowan tree offered the regional perspective.

Marion Turner felt that it would be beneficial if the Community Council should have some training or instruction to help the CC develop their own guidelines for approving applications for grants from the Beinn Tharsuinn Community Benefit Fund. This proposition to be discussed at the next meeting. In the meantime, Tony Gibbs will contact Phil Tomalin to discuss this.

Action: TG

b) Achany Update

Marion Turner and David Hannah reported that the fund is open for the first round of applications and these will be discussed at the next meeting on January 27th 2010 in Ardgay Hall, and the results available in February.

8. Amenities

Christmas Lights

Jamie Burgess and David Hannah will check the lights.

Liz Cormack will order two Christmas trees – one for Ardgay Village and one for Culrain Village. Derek Matheson and David Hannah will put up and decorate the Ardgay Tree, additional assistance will be appreciated.

Ardgay Toilets

Will be closed from Monday 9th November and will re-open again in April 2010.

Ardgay Flower Arrangements

Tony Gibbs will speak to Jeannie Sparling to see if she will be willing to look after the Flower Tubs next year.

Action: TG

9. Communications

Newsletter It was felt that the statement printed in the last newsletter concerning the Lady Ross Hotel Ardgay had been excessive and the Chair will be meeting with the property owner to correct any misunderstandings, and if necessary, a retraction will be printed in the next newsletter.

Community Website

Phil Olson said that the website is continuing to be used more often. The public link is proving useful and interesting issues have been raised. We need to consider who will deal with these in future.

10. Review of Community Councils – First Phase

Documents available at this stage have been circulated to members to consider. The Chair said feedback would be welcome for discussion at the next Ward Forum on 28th November at Kinlochbervie.

11. South Sutherland Activity Park

This item will be deferred to the next meeting.

12. Any other competent business

Members were reminded that the Annual Service of Remembrance would be on Sunday 8th November. This year the main parade will be in Ardgay after which the Legion will join the congregation in Ardgay Church, Gledfield for the morning service. David Hannah will lay the wreath on behalf of the Community Council. In keeping with previous years, a donation of £50 will be made to the British Legion on behalf of Ardgay & District.

Robbie Rowantree advised the Committee that the Scottish Government has just announced the go-ahead for the new Migdale Hospital.

William Maclaren was concerned about the lack of a visible Road Name sign for Oykel Place and will speak to John Clark about this. **Action: WM**

Jamie Burgess questioned the need for the cattle grid(s) on the B 9176 Struie Road, which can be hazardous to motorists using that road. **Action: Sec to write to HC**

13. Date, time and venue of next meeting – Wednesday 2nd December 2009 at 7.00pm in Ardgay Hall.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 10.10pm.