

ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING WEDNESDAY 3RD February 2010 IN ARDGAY HALL

Present:

Tony Gibbs (Chair)

Alan Lawrence (Treasurer)

Brigitte Geddes

William MacLaren

Marion Turner

David Hannah (Vice-Chair)

Doreen Gibbs (Secretary)

David Laver

Phil Olson

1. **Welcome** The Chairperson Tony Gibbs opened the meeting with a welcome to members
2. **Apologies** received from Jamie Burgess, Liz Cormack, Derek Matheson, David Ross and Councillor Robbie Rowantree.
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 3rd December 2009**
The minutes were approved. Proposed by David Hannah and seconded by Phil Olson.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes**
 - New Salt Bin in Struie Place.** No feedback has been received.
 - Ward Forum Meeting.** Members have been advised that the next meeting has been postponed until Saturday 27th February 2010. Minutes from the previous meeting have been circulated.
 - Planning Matters** Phil Olson asked why this Committee had not been consulted over the application from the Alladale Wilderness Reserve for the renewal of a Dangerous Wild Animals license, approved by the Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross Licensing Committee on Monday 1st February 2010. The Chairman will investigate.
 - Highland Tourism Seminar** Brigitte Geddes said that a report of the Seminar could be viewed on the Highland Council website.
 - Christmas Lights** Were taken down and are again being stored by the Gala Committee in Bonar. The need for the existing lights to be replaced and or renewed will be discussed at a future meeting.
 - Invercharron Games (Deferred from Last meeting)** Tony Gibbs reported on an email received from Creich CC. on behalf of the Invercharron Games Committee. They are concerned that they could lose their main sponsor (Skibo) if they cannot attract a larger "gate" at the event. It is suggested that a greater degree of co-operation between various committees within Bonar and Ardgay district could help, and Michael Baird on behalf of the Games committee could come to a future meeting to speak on this. It was agreed that Michael Baird would be invited to speak at a future meeting when there is space available on our agenda.
 - New Minister for the Church of Scotland.** The Service of Induction for the Rev. Anthony Jones will be held in Ardgay Church on 26th February 2010.

At this point David Hannah introduced our Guest Speaker Frank Roach from Hitrans.

Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership is a statutory body.

Mr Roach spoke about the Regional Transport Strategy within the current political framework. future plans for the rail services in the Highland Region, and the method of funding.

Additional trains to and from Inverness and Wick have been introduced in 2009. Unfortunately some routes are limited in the number of stations served. Transport links to stations will become a necessity if reliance on the car is discouraged. There is little allowance for flexibility in train time-tables. Arrival and departure times are designed for the convenience of connections to main-line services rather than the convenience of passengers wishing to use those stations serving small rural communities.

There has been a considerable increase in use of the service from Ardgay. This fact arrived at from ticket sales. Other areas covered were the future use of rail for transport of timber, development of the Dalcross-Inverness rail link. Active Travel – an audit to identify cycling/walking regions. Sunday services – to operate a peak Sunday Service in the Summer. Plans to cope with problems that may arise because of repairs to the Kessock Bridge, such as extra coaches added to peak hour trains, and possibly a park and ride service (Inverness to Tore).

6. Secretary's Report

From previous meeting Agenda Item (6) Planning Items

(1) Development at Land North West of Brindavan, Kincardine Hatchery, Ardgay

The Secretary reported that a response had been submitted to the Highland Council Planning Department, that the applications should be refused, as the development constitutes Ribbon Development in a predominantly rural area outside the Settlement Development Area, on land not designated for residential or commercial use

The applicant was urged to find alternative locations within the Settlement Development Plan.

(2)Wester Fearn Burn Hydro Our response was to approve the variation, subject to the proviso that all conditions imposed on the approved scheme are being adhered to fully by the Developer, that the interest of the Hatchery are maintained and that the HC address the issues raised by the Hatchery through their Freedom of Information request.

Beinn Tharsuinn Grant Applicants were informed of the Ardgay Community Council decisions on 4th December and passed to Phil Tomalin for payment.

Major Consultation planned over Community Council Review – 1st Phase – A letter was sent to the HC on behalf of the Ardgay & District Community Council on 16 December 2009. Copy circulated to members.

Scottish Water and Ongoing Problems – In response to a request from Creich CC for support in urging Scottish Water to address the problems with the local water supply, a letter was sent to Scottish Water with copies to John Thurso MP, Jamie Stone MSP and local MSP's. A reply has been received from Scottish Water. (copy circulated).

Ardgay Post Office – Service re-opening on Monday 22nd February in Ardgay Village Hall.

A Letter received from Scottish Hydro Electric Transssmission Ltd.

Dounreay to Beauly 275kv Electricity Transmission Line . (copy previously circulated)

7. Treasurer's Report Alan Lawrence presented a report showing current balances for the three accounts.

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|-------------------|----------|
| Treasurer account | £1793.56 |
| Projects account | £1801.09 |
| Toilets account | £ 9.12 |

It was recommended that in future a Treasurer's report should be presented once a quarter instead of every month.

It was agreed that the costs for the next newsletter (Spring edition 2010) will be met from the Projects account.

A request has been received from Lairg and Creich CC's to share the cost of expenses for Peter Campbell (Creich CC) to attend a meeting with E.ON and the SCF to discuss a format for the payment and management of community benefit from the new windfarm at (Rosehall). Ardgay are asked to contribute a third of the costs. This was agreed.

8. Windfarms

Achany Windfarm Community Benefit Fund Launch Event is to be held at Bonar Bridge Community Hall on Monday 8th February 2010 from 6pm-7pm.

Tony Gibbs presented for perusal, a copy of a Scoping Report for the development of a wind farm on the Kildermorie and Glencalvie Estates in Easter Ross, to be known as the Glenmorie Wind Farm. This will in due course be submitted to the Highland Council for planning permission. Tony Gibbs suggested that a representative from the project be invited to speak at a public meeting .

Action: Chair/Sec

9. Any other competent business

It was agreed that the Community Council would pay expenses for Brigitte Geddes to attend the Highland Bio-Diversity Forum in March 2010 in Inverness.

Brigitte Geddes asked about the future of KOSI which seems to be in a state of uncertainty at the moment. David Hannah said that it has been without a Chairman since the resignation of Lynne Burgess, and meetings have not been held. It was agreed that we should encourage any moves to revive KOSI.

Tony Gibbs has received an email from Colin Gilmour asking for nominations of deserving local residents to attend the Royal Garden Party at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in July.

It was agreed that Jeanie Sparling, and Alan Lawrence should be nominated. *Action:Chair*
David Hannah agreed to invite Ronnie MacRae (Housing Feasibility Study) to speak at the next meeting in March. *Action: DH*

David Hannah reminded members that he must have items for the newsletter by 15th February.

Marion Turner asked members to support the Public Library Service. *Action:All members*

10. Date, time and venue of next meeting- Wednesday 3rd March 2010 at 7.00pm in Ardgay Village Hall.

There being no further business Tony Gibbs thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.25pm.