

# ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTE OF MEETING WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MAY 2010 IN ARDGAY HALL

### Present:

David Hannah (Chair)	Tony Gibbs (Vice-Chair)
Alan Lawrence (Treasurer)	Doreen Gibbs (Secretary)
Jamie Burgess	Liz Cormack
Brigitte Geddes	David Laver
Derek Matheson	Phil Olson
David Ross	Marion Turner

In Attendance: Councillor Robbie Rowantree  
Representatives from the Alladale Wilderness Reserve  
Mr Hugh Fullerton –Smith Mr Innes MacNeill and Mr Jeremy Usher Smith

1. **Welcome** The Chairperson David Hannah opened the meeting with a welcome to Members and visitors.
2. **Apologies** William Maclaren.

### Introduction of Speakers

The Chairperson, David Hannah introduced speakers from the Alladale Wilderness Reserve who had asked to speak to the Community Council about their plans for the development of the Reserve and the application to the Highland Council for a Zoo Licence. Members were given a plain and clear-cut presentation of reasons for the application for the Zoo Licence and the intentions to introduce new animals to the reserve. Members of the public will be invited to view the future plans and voice their opinions at a public meeting in Ardgay Hall on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2010.

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2010**  
The minutes were approved. Proposed by Liz Cormack and seconded by David Laver.

4. **Matters arising from the minutes**

Ardgay Toilets David Hannah said that he has asked John Clarke to arrange for the floors of the toilets to be painted.

Presentation to Ian Matheson. Liz Cormack said that this will be held on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May in Ardgay Village Hall. David Hannah offered to produce posters to publicise the event.

A gift of garden vouchers has been handed over to Sandie McAughtrie in recognition of his retirement from the Bonar/Ardgay Fire Service.

Flower Tubs, Robbie Rowantree suggested that if there is a problem in obtaining new wooden flower tubs, we might consider contacting the Grean Re-cycling project in Golspie to purchase recyclable tubs.

## 5. Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported that she had written to the Ministry of Defence expressing concerns about low flying and a reply has been received asking if they may come and speak to us at a future meeting. [Action: The Secretary will reply](#)

An invitation has been sent to the Rev Anthony Jones to come and meet members at a future Council Meeting.

Communications have been received from the Highland Council about:-

**Highland Core Path Improvement Scheme** inviting Community Councils to apply for funding for core path improvement projects. Marion Turner will make an application for help towards repairs to the footbridges at Brae and Croick.

**Bilingual Path Signs.** Signposting of paths that are not already signposted will shortly be carried out, and we are asked if we would like the signs to be bilingual. The Community Council has adopted a neutral position in this matter, and no reply to the letter will be sent.

A planning application has been received from the HC Planning Service for a proposed installation of temporary 80m MET Mast at Land at Meall Buidhe 4km North of Croick. Croick Estate, Ardgay. This has also been publicised in the Northern Times. Members raised no objections to the application.

**Gearchoille Community Wood Invitation** to their AGM and Family Fun evening at Ardgay Hall on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May. It was agreed that the Community council will join the GCWA as a group member. [Action: Sec](#)

Robbie Rowantree agreed to see if there is any progress being made on the assessment of the reduction of speed limits particularly in relation to **Manse Road, Ardgay** [Action: RR](#)

## 6. Treasurer's Report.

Alan Lawrence said that the 2009/10 accounts have been passed to Mr Martin Calder for audit. The Committee agreed that as in previous years, in token of appreciation for carrying out the audit a donation of £50 will be made according to the preferences of Mr Calder.

The Accounts stand as follows:

Treasurers Account	£1780
Projects	1801
Toilets	520

It was noted that the Highland Council grants have not yet been received for this year.

The funding of the newsletter was discussed, and it was pointed out that it could be funded from the Beinn Nan Oighrean Windfarm Community Benefit which will soon be available or an application could be made to the Beinn Tharsuinn Community Benefit Fund.

## 7. Social Enterprise

Social Enterprise can be defined as business trading for social and environmental purposes. Principally for the purpose of investing in the community. A sub-committee of the Community Council has been formed to look into the setting up of a Social Enterprise Company. The members involved are David Hannah, TonyGibbs, David Laver and John McMurray (Community Outreach Worker). Their first meeting will be on the 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2010.

**Development Worker/Trust project** is about getting a project worker for Ardgay & District CC and Creich CC to set up a variety of projects to make better use of windfarm monies. This will also help with setting up the Social Enterprise Company. Obtaining funding for local businesses to support apprenticeships, to take on local youngsters to get work experience and skills training, working in partnership with UHI and Lairg Learning Centre, The Social Enterprise Academy, and David Knight, Hisez etc.

**Community Needs Assessment** will be carried out in partnership with Creich CC and the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust to identify present and future needs not just in housing but for the whole community.

8. **Newsletter** The next edition will be ready for circulation at the next meeting.  
**Community Website.** Phil Olson was congratulated on producing a clear and precise report about the Website (presented at the April meeting) the number of hits (visitors to the site) is continuing to increase.

It was decided that matters relating to Community Business shall be made public on the website or in the newsletter only after discussion at Community Council meetings.

9 **Any other competent business**

Tony Gibbs asked if we could invite Mr Michael Baird to come and speak to the CC about support for the **Invercharron Games**. This will be the first opportunity we have had to discuss the matter, and it was agreed that he should be invited to come to the next meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Action: Sec

**Glenmore Windfarm** – (new application) It was agreed that the public meetings on this new development had been informative and there is no need to invite speakers to our meeting.

Tony Gibbs suggested that he would like to develop a **Youth Council** in Ardgay, to provide a platform for young people to voice their opinions.

David Laver said that a re-application for a development of 6 houses has been made for the old **petrol station site** in Ardgay.

**Ward Forum** held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2010 Robbie Rowantree reported that the Director of Education had spoken at the meeting about the expected shortfall in the Education Budget, which may have to lead to a rationalisation of schools. Further cuts across the board may lead to closures of libraries and Care Homes.

Concerns were raised about the effect that the closure of local care homes would have on our community and those persons who rely on the care provided in residential facilities. It was pointed out that it is less expensive to provide care at home than to maintain Care Homes. This will be a subject for further discussion when results of budget decisions are made known.

**The next Ward Forum** will be in **Scourie on the 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2010.**

**Gledfield School House** Marion Turner raised a concern about the empty schoolhouse at Gledfield School, and asked why it could not be made available to rent by local teachers who are in need of accommodation. The Secretary will write to Graham Nicholls at HC for an answer to this question.

**Ardgay War Memorial David** Hannah said that the War Memorial will shortly be cleaned and tidied and repairs will be made to the lights.

It was noted that the Bradbury Centre have launched their new **Community Bus Service**. Timetables and planned routes have been published.

10. **Date and Time of the next meeting.**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2010 in Ardgay Hall at 7.00pm

There being no further business the Chairperson closed the meeting at 9.45pm.