

ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING WEDNESDAY 2nd JUNE 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
William MacLaren	Phil Olson
David Ross	Marion Turner

In attendance: Councillor Robbie Rowantree

Mr Michal Baird (Guest Speaker) and PC Ian Gollan (Bonar Bridge)

1. **Welcome** The Chairperson David Hannah opened the meeting with a welcome to Members and guests.
2. **Apologies** Derek Matheson

The Chairman, David Hannah introduced the committee to P.C. Gollan from Bonar Bridge Police Station who is to be our local Police representative on the Community Council. We look forward to his attendance at future meetings.

3. **Introduction Mr Michael Baird**

David Hannah introduced Mr Michael Baird, who was invited to speak to us about the Invercharron Games, and possible help and input from the Community.

The Games have recently lost the support of Skibo (Carnegie Club) and as a result are having to look for other sources of sponsorship. It is hoped that Creich and Ardgay Community Councils can offer support to the Games Committee by way of running stalls at the event, fund raising and encouraging young people to participate in competitive events.

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 7th April 2010**

The minutes were approved. Proposed by Marion Turner and seconded by Phil Olson.

5. **Matters arising from the minutes**

Presentation to Ian Matheson. Liz Cormack said that she had received a good response from the public for the retirement gift for Ian Matheson. A presentation of a Digital TV set and a gift of money was made on Friday 28th May in Ardgay Hall. Tony Gibbs proposed a vote of thanks to Liz for her hard work in organising the collection and the evening.

Gledfield School House The following reply has been received from HC about the future use of the empty school house: -"We are aware of the situation at Gledfield, although there are no plans for the house at present. The ECS Service is currently reviewing leases as there are issues relating to these which need to be properly resolved. In addition we are reviewing whether or not we should be a landlord, as this is not our function. In due course this may result in our properties transferring to Housing & Property Services. As regards the suggestion as to tenancy, your sentiments are appreciated, although there are many

contrary views, given the remuneration made to teachers these days. Please be assured that as soon as the decisions are reached the appropriate measures will be taken”.

Highland Core Path Improvement Scheme Robbie Rowantree reminded members that whilst the programme is for Core Paths, paths not identified as core paths may be considered for funding where the applicant can show the proposal extends or links in to the core path network and demonstrates a demand for its use. Marion Turner will make an application for funding towards the repair of the bridge at Badvoon.

6. **Secretary’s Report**

The Secretary reported that she has received a communication from the HC about the proposed location of new speed signs in Manse Road. It is hoped that they will soon be in operation.

A statement has been received from Creich CC asking for payment of £65.66p, our share of costs incurred by representatives meeting with Scottish Communities Foundation to negotiate with E-On, on the matter of wind farm community benefit for their Rosehall development. This was previously agreed (February 2010 agenda item 7) and was passed to the Treasurer Alan Lawrence for payment.

The Secretary mentioned that the Ward Manager has advised that it may be possible to purchase stationery supplies through the HC’s suppliers Lyreco, but orders would need to be for a reasonable amount. It may be possible that to be beneficial, CC’s could build up joint orders. This is something that could be discussed at a future Ward Forum meeting,

7. **Treasurer’s Update**

Alan Lawrence Stated that the audited accounts had been sent to the Highland Council but prior to this evening’s meeting he had not received the annual grants. David Hannah said that HC had sent a cheque in error to Hilda Buchanan our former Treasurer, and this has now been passed to Alan Lawrence. It is uncertain if the grant for the Toilets is included. Alan Lawrence will pursue this with the Ward Manager.

Phil Olson presented costs for the Community Website

For the year 2009-2010 £29.58

For the name £17.12

For the year 2010-2011 £31.45

These were agreed and passed to the Treasurer for payment. [Action: Treasurer](#)

Robbie Rowantree advised the Committee that he is concerned about rumours that are growing concerning future Community Windfarm Benefits paid to Community Councils. He feels that in view of the expected severe reductions in budgets, the Highland Council may consider looking to access these funds to finance declining community resources. It was decided that we should write to Jim Mather MSP with copies to Alistair Dodds Chief Executive, and Ian Hargrave Corporate Manager, Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, expressing our concerns. [Action: Sec](#)

8. **Flower Tubs.**

David Hannah said that it has been possible to obtain 6 half-barrel tubs at a cost of £18 each. (Payment approved).

The Toilets will be closed for a short time during July, whilst Jeannie Sparling is away on holiday and during that time it is hoped that the floors will be repainted.

9. Social Enterprise Update

David Hannah said that the sub-committee has met for the first time and it has been agreed that an application will be made to the Scottish Community Foundation for funding to initially set-up a group to create local employment opportunities for young people in various skills in forestry.

Brigitte Geddes questioned if this would conflict with other people already working in this type of employment. John McMurray is talking to the Forestry Commission about this issue.

10. Development Trust Update

David Hannah reminded members of the request (previously circulated) from Peter Campbell (Creich CC) asking Ardgay CC to contribute £3,000 for two years (total £6,000) towards the cost of the post of Development Officer. Applications for additional funding are being made to Achany Windfarm and the Leader Fund. The annual funding required for the development post is estimated at £37,600. A sub-committee of CC Chairs plus any other interested persons will be set up to oversee the initial stages. It has been suggested that Key Services may undertake the project work prior to the appointment of a development worker. Tony Gibbs suggested that we could approach the Ward Discretionary Fund for a grant towards this project.

11. Community Needs Assessment

Morven Taylor and Ronnie MacRae will produce a sample questionnaire for eventual distribution by the CC to every household/occupants in the District for their views on the needs for Transport, Education and Housing. A suggested time-table is

- September – Finalise and publicise questionnaire
- October - Interview and distribution of questionnaire
- November - Analysis of results
- December - Report results.

11a. Beinn Tharsuin Grant Application

An application for a grant from the Beinn Tharsuinn Community Benefit Fund has been received from the Ardgay Public Hall Committee for £12,000 towards the costs of interior and exterior paint work and re-varnishing of the floor. It was agreed that Tony Gibbs and David Laver will have a further discussion with the Chair/Treasurer of the Hall Committee about the application, and advise on other grants also available. Following this meeting a report will be presented to the CC at the next meeting with recommendations for this application.

Action: TG/DL

12. Any other competent business.

Marion Turner asked if the CC can invite SHETL the power distribution arm of Scottish & Southern Energy, to come and speak to the committee about their plans for the work they intend to carry out on the upgrade of the overhead power cables on the Dounreay to Beaully Transmission Line and the effects this work will have on our area. *Action: Sec*

Doreen Gibbs asked Robbie Rowantree about the current position regarding outstanding road repairs and the likely prospect of any being carried out in the near future. It would seem that in the present financial climate all road maintenance work is at a standstill.

Blue Badge Scheme The charge for the Disabled Blue Badges due to be put in place on 1st April 2010 are currently on hold until further notice.

David Hannah read from an email received from Andy Mackay about the Changing Concept of Best Value for Local Authority Land. Information useful for potential community buy-out, Details available on www.scottishproperty.co.uk/news/index.cfm

13. **Newsletter Summer Edition 2010 (No. 8)** is now available for distribution.
14. **Date, time and venue of the next meeting is Wednesday 7th July at 7.00pm in Ardgay Community Hall.**

There being no further business the Chairperson closed the meeting at 9.15pm