

ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING - WEDNESDAY 7th JULY 2010 - IN ARDGAY HALL

Present: David Hannah (Chair), Tony Gibbs (Vice-Chair), Alan Lawrence (Treasurer), Doreen Gibbs (Secretary), Liz Cormack, Brigitte Geddes, David Laver, Derek Matheson, Phil Olson, David Ross

In attendance: Councillor Robbie Rowantree, Sgt. Garry Cameron (Police Representative)

1. Welcome The Chair opened the meeting with a welcome to Members.

2. Apologies Jamie Burgess and Marion Turner

The Chair welcomed Sgt Garry Cameron who gave us an update of recent events and incidents occurring in the area involving Police attendance.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 2nd June 2010 - A small amendment was noted to Agenda item 5; it now reads "Marion Turner will make an application for funding towards the repair of the bridge at Badvoon.

The minutes were agreed

4. Matters arising from the minutes –

- Highland Core Path Improvement Scheme Phil Olson updated the Committee on a proposed application to provide a replacement bridge at Badvoon. The approximate total estimate for the project is £17,000, which it is hoped will be funded by the Highland Core Path Improvement Programme. Any future ongoing maintenance will have to be the responsibility of the Community Council. The Committee approved the proposals and agreed that the application should go ahead. It was further agreed that a structural survey should be sought on the state of repair of the Brae Bridge. The cost for this will be £2,000 and an application for funding could be made from the Leader Fund. Phil Olson will apply for a survey to be carried out before any decisions can be made concerning repairs.
- Continuing with the theme of footpaths, it was noted that the footpath from Ardgay Hill to Oakwood Place, which is part of the Core Path Scheme is in need of maintenance. The Secretary will contact John Clarke (HC) about this. **Action: Sec**
- Support for Invercharron Games. Phil Olson submitted a proposal to set up a "display unit" which could be transported to various sites/events/locations in the area, hired out to local groups or used at future fairs/festivals. The purpose of this is to be able to inter-act with the public, publicise the work of the Community Council, and to survey needs of visitors and the public visiting the area for any events, and in the first instance, at the Invercharron Games.
- The display unit would include a gazebo/tent – 3m x 2m, plus table and a Display Banner.
- From the unit, publicity materials could be handed out, and members of the public will be able to view displays, ask questions, and engage with members of the Ardgay & District CC. The display will need to be manned at times by members of the Community Council and any others, and the total cost of the "display unit" plus consumables would be approximately £400 plus any costs for sites at Games or other events. There will be ongoing costs for display materials, stickers etc.
- It was agreed that the proposal should go ahead and the project will be supported and funded by the Ardgay & District CC to promote and publicise the district of Ardgay and its location in the Kyle of Sutherland.
- It was further agreed that the Community Council will make a donation to the Invercharron Games of £30 towards games funding instead of attending as Traders. It will be more appropriate for our Community Organisation to be present with the new proposed display unit.

5. Secretary's Report - The Secretary had received the following copies of correspondence which are available for members to peruse:

- The Highland Council Development Plan Scheme 2010
- The Scottish Rights of Way Report and Subscription Renewal. Renewal agreed
- Crossroads Caring for Carers East Sutherland (Request for donations for carers)
- Caithness & Sutherland Planning Day (Area Police Command) – Thursday 19th August at Helmsdale Community Centre at 11 am. **Chair will attend.**

- Communication from Ward Manager (North West and Central Sutherland) – Consultation on Community Care – Tuesday 10th August in Helmsdale Community Centre – 7.00pm - [Ardgay CC unable to send a rep.](#)

6 Treasurer's Update - Alan Lawrence reported:

- Treasurer's account £2561.57
- Projects account 931.78 (outstanding liabilities of £440.00)
- Toilets account 229.21 (outstanding liabilities of £180.00)
- The Toilets grant £1500 is expected within the next few days.

7. Community Windfarm Benefit – update following letter to MSP, Michael Mather and HC.

A letter was sent to Mr Michael Mather, voicing our concerns that the Highland Council is endeavouring to gain access to Community Benefit Funds. (Copy previously circulated to members). A reply to this letter was received 5 July 2010 (Copy previously circulated to members). The negative tone of the reply was received with dismay and members are concerned about the future direction that the Scottish Government may take on this matter. Robbie Rowantree reminded members that Community Benefit is voluntary and windfarms are not obliged to pay Community Benefit. He feels that this matter will have to be addressed in both the Scottish Parliament and the Government in Westminster.

8. Grant Application to Beinn Tharsuinn Community Benefit - Following discussions with representatives from the Ardgay Community Hall and Tony Gibbs and David Laver, it was recommended that the application for £12,000 be approved. It was further decided to recommend to the Ardgay Hall Committee that a thorough review be made of further major repairs and renovations that will be needed to bring the Hall up to a necessary standard.

Robbie Rowantree suggested that the Ward Manager, Andy Mackay would be able to offer advice and guidance, and it was recommended we should ask the Hall Committee to accept David Laver to serve on their committee. His professional expertise will be helpful. The Community Council will also assist in seeking sources for funding for new improvements and developments of the Hall. [Action: Sec to write to Phil Tomalin and Chair of Hall Committee](#)

9. KOSI – David Hannah reported that the Chairs of the Three Community Councils Lairg, Creich and Ardgay had discussed and agreed in principle to wind up the Kyle of Sutherland Initiative and split the balance of money in the HBOS account into three equal parts and return it to Community Council funds. Before the final decision is made the Chair invited comments to the proposal. Brigitte Geddes referred to her email (previously sent to members) voicing her concerns about the proposals to wind up KOSI. David Hannah explained that Lairg have already gone along a new route on their own, and as Ardgay & Creich hope to set up a joint venture for a Community Development Initiative, this will become a Kyle of Sutherland Initiative, but without Lairg. David Hannah explained that only KOSI could wind itself up and the expression of intent from the Community Councils was not a KOSI action. The next move would be to encourage the KOSI board to convene an extraordinary meeting with the purpose of winding up and disbursement of funds. Until this meeting makes decision KOSI remains as it presently stands. The Vice-Chair of KOSI will be asked to call a meeting to wind-up KOSI in its current state. In view of public response the Council agreed to the proposal to wind up KOSI in its current state.

[Action: Chair](#)

10. Windfarms Update

a) Achany - David Hannah said that the Panel intend to carry out an audit of Village Halls.

Lynne Burgess, one of our public representatives on the Achany Panel, has resigned, and an advertisement for her replacement will be prepared in due course. Work on the windfarm is nearly complete, with no apparent problems.

b) Rosehall - Tony Gibbs reported on a meeting of the Rosehall Wind Farm Community Liaison Group. Discussions had been about site work completed so far. Some delays had occurred due to bad weather. There has been concern about tree felling on Sundays, and this has been stopped. Noise from the turbines is a concern for Durcha residents, and this will be looked at when the turbines are operational. A newsletter will be published on a quarterly basis to update the community on developments.

11. Social Enterprise - Update No new information to report. Awaiting result of grant application.

12. Development Trust - Update Awaiting outcome of KOSI decisions. Grant application to Achany Windfarm Benefit Fund ongoing

13. Community Needs Assessment - Update Morven Taylor is seeking funding for the survey, further information will follow.

14. Any other competent business -

- SHETL Doreen Gibbs spoke about the reply received from Gareth Edwards, Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) about the Dounreay to Beaulieu transmission project. (Copy previously circulated to members). As there are a few issues which need to be addressed before the work begins in 2011, it was decided to invite Mr Edwards to our September meeting to answer questions on the project. [Action: Sec.](#)
- Doreen Gibbs asked if it would possible to have an additional notice-board. As we no longer have the use of the windows in the previous Post Office (The Lady Ross) the existing notice-board is not large enough. We need to double the present capacity to cope with the number of notices we need to display. It would be beneficial if we could have one notice-board for public and official notices, i.e. Ardgay & DCC and HC material, and one notice-board for "public use". The suggestion was approved and Liz Cormack will approach Andy MacKay about this.
- Doreen Gibbs informed members that she is going to ask HC if a dog-waste bin could be put near the grassed area between the playpark and Oakwood Place near where our flower tubs are displayed. It has been noticed that this is a problem in that area. The Committee agreed that this is needed, and congratulated Jeannie Sparling on the splendid display the new flower tubs make now that they have been planted up. [Action: Sec](#)
- It was agreed that we should look into the possibility of setting up an Enterprise Company in collaboration with the Development Trust to look at a 'buy-out' of a property in Ardgay, which could be developed for housing needs (flats) and shops. All of which would be an asset to the Village. It was agreed that this proposal should be taken further.
- Derek Matheson asked if grass verges will be cut this year. Robbie Rowantree said that it is unlikely any will be cut this year, due to financial cut-backs.
- It was agreed that David Hannah should make an application to the Beinn Tharsuinn Community Benefit Fund for a grant for funding of the next year's issues of the ADCC Newsletter. [Action Newsletter Editor](#)

15. Date, time and venue of the next meeting - Wednesday 1st September at 7.00pm in Ardgay Community Hall.

There being no further business the Chairperson closed the meeting at 9.50pm and wished members a good summer break.