

# ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTE OF MEETING - WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2010 IN ARDGAY HALL.

**Present:** David Hannah (Chair), Alan Lawrence (Treasurer), Doreen Gibbs (Secretary), Liz Cormack, Brigitte Geddes, Derek Matheson, Phil Olson, David Ross, Marion Turner

**In attendance:** Councillor Robbie Rowantree,

**Members of the Public Present:** M.Munro, D.MacLean, I. MacLean, G.MacLeod and P. Armstrong.

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

**2. Apologies.** Jamie Burgess, Tony Gibbs and David Laver.

**3.** The Chairman welcomed Guest Speakers from Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) to speak about the proposed upgrade to the Dounreay to Beaulieu overhead power transmission line. A short presentation followed outlining the work to be carried out. No towers will be changed in Ardgay, and no additional towers will be added. The height of existing towers will remain the same. Adequate notice will be given to any power disruptions. Babcocks will be the main contractors and local contractors will be used where possible. Work will commence in 2011. Further information can be obtained on the website: [www.sse.com](http://www.sse.com).

**4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2010** - The minutes as presented with amendments, were approved.

**5. Matters arising from the minutes** – Jamie Burgess has resigned from the Community Council because of the family move to Lockerbie. **Sec to write and thank JB for service to CC.**

- Ardgay Hill/Oakwood path, maintenance will be a matter for the Access Officer Matt Dent to agree.
- Gazebo/Display Unit and support for Invercharron Games. Phil Olson and Marion Turner reported that all the items have been purchased, and the display materials organised. Visitor survey forms will be distributed and a suggestion box will be available for public comments. A donation from Ardgay CC has been sent to the Games Committee. Local organisations will be welcome to share and make use of these facilities.

**6. Secretary's Report** – The Secretary reported on an email received from Cllr George Farlow about imminent timber harvesting operations in the Inveroykel area and the impact the transport of the felled timber will have on the roads structure. He is asking for liaison with the Forestry Developers. The CC supported to this proposal. **Sec: to respond**

- HC Quality Awards 2010 – We are invited to nominate a service team or individual for an award. Two suggestions were made and these will be forwarded to the Highland Council. **Sec: to deal**
- Planning Application for erection of store/garage at land North West of Brindavan, Ardgay. No objections were raised to this application.

**7. Treasurer's Update** - Alan Lawrence reported:

- Treasurer's account £2361.87
- Projects account £2961.84 ( includes sum of £2500 received from Beinn Nan Oighrean Wind Farm)
- Toilets account £1189.22 (includes annual grant of £1500 from HC)

**8. Grant applications to Beinn Tharsuinn Community Windfarm Benefit Fund**

- Ardgay & District Community Council - Newsletter costs - £1875 for next 5 x issues) - Approved.
- Invercharron Highland Games Committee - £900 - Approved.
- Bonar Bridge Football Club – None specified amount or purpose. Not Approved.
- It was agreed that David Hannah (Chair) will speak to Creich CC about agreement on a criteria for future funding of joint ventures concerning applications to the Beinn Tharsuinn Fund.

**9. Minute Secretary** – Due to the increasing volume of work that falls on the secretary it was decided to seek to appoint a minute secretary. Mr Peter Armstrong has volunteered to take on the position.

- In view of the work load on the Secretary and Treasurer, it was agreed that a payment of £275 per annum should be paid to the post holders; effective from April 2010, the appropriate amount to be paid per quarter.
- A proposal was put forward to revert back to Monday evenings for Community Council meetings, effective from February 2011. Members will be circulated for their opinions/choice. **Sec to circulate members and councillors**

**10. Permitted Development Rights for Microgeneration Equipment on Non-Domestic Properties - Consultation.** It was agreed that this should be supported and encouraged.

**11. Ardgay War Memorial.** Ardgay has won the Best Kept War Memorial Competition 2010 for the Memorial without a garden and will be put forward for judging in the national finals. David Hannah said that it is hoped that a clean-up of the stonework and attention to the rifle bayonet can soon be carried out. **HC - John Clark to deal**

**12. Christmas Lights Whist Drive. To be held in Bonar Village Hall on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September.** Volunteers are needed to help during the evening. Donations for prizes and the raffle can be given to Liz Cormack. **Action: All members**

**13. Windfarms Update.**

- Breamore Wind Farm Public Exhibition: Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September in Lairg. This has been well publicised.
- Achany: The position vacated by Lynne Burgess has been filled by Betty Wright. (only applicant)
- Rosehall: Newsletter published by E.ON has been circulated.

**14. Sutherland Summit.** The formal launch of the Sutherland Development and Action Plan took place at the Sutherland Partnership's AGM on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2010 in Lairg Community Centre.

**15. Updates – Development Trust.** A meeting to disband KOSI has been arranged for Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September in Invershin Hall at 7.30pm.

- **Community Needs Assessment.** Creich CC has not yet met to discuss this. Ronnie Macrae is having little success in finding funding for the Byeways project.

**16. Any other competent business.** Applications have been made to the Highland Core Path Scheme (through Matt Dent at HC) and the Leader Fund, to fund a survey of the Brae Footbridge and for repairs to the bridge at Badvoon. No positive update to report. Historic Scotland have confirmed that the Brae Bridge is a listed building and should be the responsibility of the Highland Council who had carried out repairs in the past. The Bridge has now been closed by Highland Council on health and safety grounds.

- David Hannah spoke about the concerns of parents of children who are moving on from Gledfield Primary School to Dornoch or Tain Academies. It appears that there is not enough space on the school transport to take them to Dornoch. A letter has been sent to the Director of Education, Mr Hugh Fraser asking that adequate transport is provided to carry all the pupils to their chosen schools and to designate Gledfield Primary School as a "dual-feeder school" for both Tain and Dornoch Academies.

- It has been noted that a drain near Gledfield School is sinking. **Action: John Clark to deal**
- The next meeting of the Ward Forum is on 18<sup>th</sup> September in Scourie Village Hall. As this date clashes with the Invercharron Games, no representative from Ardgay is available to attend. **Action: Sec**

**17. Date, time and venue of next meeting. Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at 7.00pm in Ardgay Hall**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.35pm