

ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Minutes of meeting held on Monday, 12th May 2014 in Ardgay Public Hall at 7pm

Present: Elected & co-opted members: David Hannah, Chair (DH), Teresa Langley, Secretary (TL), Alan Lawrence, Treasurer (AL), Marion Turner, (MT), Phil Olson PO), Betty Wright (BW), Bob Sendall (BS), Sylvia Muras (co-opted at this meeting as Newsletter editor) (SM)

Also present for the public meeting: James Ross, Margaret Ross **Police Scotland:** PC Angus Morrison, Dornoch

Apologies: None received **Minutes Secretary:** Mary Goulder (MG)

Items 1/2. Welcome/Public meeting to discuss Beinn Tharsuinn Fund management/Apologies (see above) Chair DH opened the public meeting, ahead of the regular monthly meeting, called to discuss the proposed changes to the management of The Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Community Ltd.

At last month's CC meeting PO advised that THC will be ceasing to operate as Fund Managers for arm's length companies. Proposals for methods to continue management have been suggested; for A&DCC it is suggested that asking the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust (KoSDT) to take on this role would be the most appropriate course of action. Its role would encompass receiving the A&DCC funds from Scottish Power, banking and recording the funds, and issuing of awarded grants after the CC has approved them. A new application form should be drawn up and applications would be sent directly to the CC Secretary for circulation to members for consideration prior to CC discussions at regular meetings. At present applications are sent to THC and forwarded from there. PO advised that Scottish Power seems happy for each CC to make its own arrangements for future management. All members agreed that the management should be kept as local as possible with full control over all processes remaining with the CC. It is important that the public is aware that the CC is in charge of the fund with no decisions being taken elsewhere. PO will approach KoSDT asking for a quote to take on the fund management. He will also attend the next board meeting of BTWCLtd, at which each CC should present its preferred options, and he will report back to the CC next month. **PO Action.**

Non-agenda item. Mr Ross and his mother attended the meeting to highlight the disturbing problem of rats found in domestic premises on Ardgay Hill. Droppings, rats seen on the road and a dead rat found in an attic all stand as evidence of a significant vermin problem. Some residents have been putting out rat poison but concerns were raised regarding the contamination dangers to other animals who might encounter either the poison or an affected rat. THC Environmental Control has a statutory duty to deal with such an issue. Secretary will pass on all details to that department asking for an immediate survey of the village and action to clear the problem. It was mentioned that a follow up survey at the start of winter should be recommended. **TL Action.**

Item 3. Police report. PC Morrison advised there were few reported issues in the last month and of minor concern only. The CC passed back the usual concerns of speeding through the village especially within the 20mph zone, log lorries and other HGV vehicles driving discourteously on single track roads. Cyclists, younger road users and tourists are particularly vulnerable. PC Morrison will take back these concerns to his superiors. Thanked for his attendance, PC Morrison left at 7.50pm.

Item 4/5. Minutes of April meeting/matters arising. The Minutes of the April meeting were approved as a true and accurate record, proposed by Alan Lawrence; seconded by Betty Wright. **(1) The Lady Ross.** No feedback has been received following the public meeting last month to discuss the future of The Lady Ross. **(2) Litter pick.** BW has arranged with Gledfield School to hold the Litter Pick on Monday 19th May, convening at 9.30am at The Lady Ross. Gloves have been procured for the school children's use.

Item 6. Newsletter. Following the discussion last month, as agreed a meeting took place between Sylvia Muras and CC representatives DH and BW. SM has produced a draft copy of a proposed newsletter for the next issue, due out in June. Some discussion followed after which it was agreed that a small sub-committee should be set up to discuss content, layout and proofreading ahead of each issue being printed. SM advised she has secured a three year advertising deal with KoSDT, conditional on the Trust being awarded the printing contract. The cost per print run will be £380 for 22/24 full colour pages. Using a thinner paper than previously this will work out at £1 per copy. It was agreed that this issue should be produced with further discussion taking place after publication and feedback. This is the ideal time to re-vamp the newsletter, removing/reconsidering items which have been standard in the past. SM and the sub-committee will conduct a review and report back. To aid in smooth management of the project it was proposed that SM be co-opted to the CC as Newsletter Editor, proposed by DH, seconded PO, and agreed by all. Various ideas were proposed with

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regard to future content; these can be worked through at a later date. The agenda and approved Minutes of CC meetings should be posted on the CC section of the noticeboard outside the Public Hall. **TL Action.** A secure post-box should be sited there for public feedback/information/comments. **AL Action.**

Item 7. Correspondence. DH listed incoming correspondence including an invitation to attend the forthcoming prize-giving at Dornoch Academy. Sec will advise that no-one is available. **TL Action.**

Information received confirms that THC records show THC spent £28,000 on repairs to Tuiteam Bridge in 1986. Matt Dent, THC Core Path Officer, has been unable to confirm any change of ownership, which remains unknown. The bridge appears to be labelled as a 'superseded' bridge with its provenance still to be established. It is not a designated Core Path, in spite of being a vital link in times of flood, and is not on the list of accredited structures for maintenance. Jeanie Sparling has confirmed in writing that she is ceasing to take care of the flower tubs/decorations in the village. She has agreed with Jocky Hewitt that he will take over and she will pass on a hi-viz waistcoat and a wheeled water carrier to him. Jeanie intends to continue cleaning and care of the toilets. Jocky will not take on the flowers on the station platform. It was suggested that the tubs might be relocated elsewhere in the village. Treasurer confirmed that last year the CC paid out £150 for the tubs, £70 for village flowers and £40 for station flowers. Jeanie took care of these as a much appreciated volunteer.

Item 8. Treasurer's report. (AL) The cleared balance on the Treasurer's account stands at £1113.85 with outstanding cheques amounting to £71.30. The Projects account balance is £5762.79; outstanding cheques amount to £1625.98 of which £1520 is a transfer to the Toilets account on loan pending the payment of the annual grant from The Highland Council. The Toilets account balance is currently £3.65. A cheque has been raised for £189.00 to cover the April cleaning costs. Martin Calder has agreed again to audit the annual accounts, for 2013/14 and will have these ready for the CC AGM in June. Payments made by BACS for newsletter advertising are being processed. It was noted with great appreciation the excellent value and standard provided by Jeanie Sparling in her duties as cleaner of the toilets.

Item 9. Secretary's report (TL). Hayley Bangs of Kyle of Sutherland Youth Development Group requested a letter of support for, and an entry on THC Planning website, the proposed development on their site at South Bonar. An invitation will be issued to KOSYDG to attend the June meeting of the CC prior to such action being taken. Owing to other commitments of members it was agreed that the date of the AGM should be changed, with 23rd June proposed as the alternative. Secretary will advise all relevant bodies and posters should be displayed locally in advance of the meeting. **TL Action.** Confirmation will be sought as to the first contact for THC in the absence of the Ward Manager. **MG Action.**

Item 10. Windfarms. Sallachy. A planning decision is still awaited from the Scottish Government. The developers would be appreciative of any support to move this along. The developers recently held meetings with potential contractors and are keen to work with local firms, helping them to work together as appropriate. **Achany Panel.** The next meeting is in June. The next deadline for applications is 31st October. **Braemore.** Planning application delayed pending further noise and bird surveys. **Caplich.** New development proposed, very early stage at present. BW will join DH and MT as CC representatives dealing with windfarm matters.

Item 11. Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust update. (MT) KoSDT continues to seek ways to operate local community benefits to best advantage. Development Officer's report for April will be circulated to all CCs. **MG Action.**

Item 12. Highland Councillor's report. No report available.

Item 13. Any other competent business. (1) Sutherland Access Forum. It was reported from an Access Forum that the Invershin cycle ramp project has stalled in THC Engineering Department. Matt Dent was appointed as Project Manager to see this through to completion but no progress has been made in the last months. Secretary will write to Steven Barron, CEO of THC, and all three local councillors seeking a progress report and an update as to when the project might be completed. **TL Action.**

Item 14. Date and time of next meeting. The next meeting will be on Monday 30th June 2014 at 7pm in the Ardgay Public Hall. This will be the AGM which will be followed by the regular monthly meeting. Members of the public are most welcome to attend.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm and was followed by a private session to discuss applications to the Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Community Benefit Fund. The outcome of discussions is noted below.

Item 15. Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm grant applications (private session)

Application by Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust for £2,000 towards initial work at the Bonar Bridge Post Office house was approved.

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Application by Bradbury Centre for £2,000 towards the purchase of a replacement was approved.

This meeting closed at 9.40pm.