



## Ardgay & District Community Council

**Draft Minutes** of AGM held on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 7.00pm in Ardgay Hall

**Present: Elected members:** David Hannah, Chair (DH), Alan Lawrence, Treasurer (AL), Teresa Langley, Secretary (TL), Phil Olson (PO), Marion Turner (MT), Silvia Muras (SM)

**Also present:** Highland Councillor George Farlow (GF), Lesley Pope, Sheila Lall

**Minutes Secretary:** Mary Goulder (MG)

**Apologies:** Betty Wright (BW), Bob Sendall (BS)

**Items 1/2. Welcome/Apologies/(see above)** The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

**Item 3. Minutes of last AGM.** The Minutes of the last AGM held on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014 were accepted as a true and accurate record. Proposed: Marion Turner; seconded: Teresa Langley.

**Item 4. Chairperson's report.** (DH) **The Community Council** – As you know, because we tell you in your newsletter it has been very busy working for you this year with lots of challenges which we tried to meet. As this will be the last AGM before the Community Council Elections in November 2015 I'd like to remind you of some of what we have done, in addition to normal business.

As a team - We have once again generated more work for ourselves by continuing our partnership links with all of our neighbouring Community Councils and the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust, made easier with the help of Helen Houston and her team. Our thanks go to the Trust board and members who keep the initiative working for us. We continue to be very grateful to our Minute Secretary, Mary Goulder of Fadan Word Service which allows all eight of us to participate in meetings.

We have adopted The Highland Council's recommended form of accounting, hopefully making the Treasurer's job easier, and highlighting the shortfall between what we get and what we need.

**Windfarms** - There is no avoiding them now that they are here and we are using them to your best advantage by working with Creich and Lairg communities through the SSE Achary & EoN Rosehall Windfarm Panel we continue to support a wide range of local groups and organisations for our mutual benefit. We still await decisions on several others. If at times there seems to be an imbalance of distribution we know that things will equal out over the next 25 years.

**Beinn Tharsuinn/Rock by Sea Community Benefit Funds** - Continues to be important sources of small awards (up to £2000) for groups in the A&DCC area and are now managed by the Community Council which welcomes applications to the funds & Application Forms are available on our excellent website we have also produced better guidance for applicants and have created a dedicated mailbox for applications.

**Communications** - We continually try to improve our relationship with our members – that's **YOU**: We have improved meeting procedures and welcome you to sit around the table with us so that you can participate and we continue with an open half hour for guests speakers/community members issues before the business meetings so that we can all listen to and ask questions of the interesting and very relevant speakers who come and tell us what is happening in the wider world. Through **YOUR** quarterly newsletter, which keeps all of the community, and the wider world informed of our many achievements, some failures and often frustrations. We wish to thank all those who help by providing details of groups and their activities, information and links, distribution and feedback, please keep it up and help our Editor Silvia produce an even better newsletter. For those who have other commitments which prevents them attending meetings they can access the website with viewable and downloadable minutes and take the opportunity to comment and participate remotely through our dedicated A&DCC mailbox for e-mails ensuring we have accurate records of correspondence.

My personal thanks go to Phil Olson who provides and maintains our superb website - pushing our boundaries far beyond our borders.

**Community** - Jocky Hewitt has taken over the new village flower tubs from Gordon & Jeannie Sparling and Doreen Bruce & Carol Laver continue to care for those on the station platforms, please get in touch if you would be willing help. We again thank Jeannie Sparling for all the work she has done with keeping our busy toilets in prim and proper condition, despite the vast increase in use from coach tours. I continue the excellent work of Donald Beaton and look

after the War Memorial gain awards for 'Best Kept', (certificates on display in Ardgay Public Hall), I would really appreciate some help with the sweeping up and re-lettering, please contact me for details.

**Wider World** - Members of the Community Council represent Ardgay & District by participating in action for Sutherland, influence Highland Council policies and decisions, where possible with the help of our three Councillors, Linda, George and Hugh, and it is good to have Ward Manager Andy Mackay our main link with Highland Council Services back.

Some of us serve on wind farm panels, consultation groups and community organisations, Citizens Advice Bureau Board, Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust, Ardgay Public Hall, Highland Small Communities Housing Trust Board, Gearrhoille Community Wood Ardgay, Voluntary Groups-East Sutherland Board, and a wide range of other working parties and forums, which seem such an essential part of community life ensuring the best possible representation for us.

"A successful Community Council relies on the, loyalty and hard work of its members, who unreservedly give of their time". I would like to say that they also depend on the support of the communities that they work for. If you have any suggestion on how we can improve what we do for you please tell us.

Finally, as Chair I give my thanks to everyone, not already mentioned who have done so much to help me through this year. That is all of the Community Councillors, Newsletter Distributors, our shops and businesses and all residents of Ardgay & District Community Council area who give so much support that is often unrecognised but is very much appreciated.

**Item 5. Treasurer's report.** (AL) Copies of the audited Balance sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 were handed out; these showed a total balance of £10,527.54 of which £10,100.72 is in the restricted funds of the Beinn Tharsuinn Community Projects, Newsletter, Rock by Sea and E.ON Path Fund. The Toilet account is £24 overspent over the last two years due to underfunding by THC; A&DCC subsidise this service to the public. AL and MT were commended for their work in producing the figures in the format requested by THC but they stated that the example given by THC is not relevant to CCs and an appropriate template should be available. The current format demands that all accounts be shown even though most of the amounts are in restricted funds and a false impression is therefore created.

**Item 6. Election of Office Bearers 2015-16.** All members of the Community Council stood down and Councillor Farlow took the chair for the purpose of electing the Chair.

David Hannah was proposed to continue as Chair; proposed: Phil Olson; seconded: Teresa Langley.

Marion turner was proposed as Vice Chair; proposed: David Hannah; seconded: Alan Lawrence

Teresa Langley was proposed to continue as Secretary and Alan Lawrence was proposed to continue as Treasurer; proposed: David Hannah and agreed by all.

Phil Olson agreed to continue to maintain the CC website and was warmly thanked for his work on it.

Sylvia Muras was proposed to continue as Newsletter Editor; proposed by David Hannah; agreed by all.

Mary Goulder was proposed to continue as Minutes Secretary; proposed: David Hannah and agreed by all.

As none of the remaining members wished to stand down at this time they were accepted as members of this new Council. The office bearers noted that November 2015 will see the next elections for Community Council members.

DH accepted the position of Chair until that time only, as did MT as Vice Chair. In the event of neither Chair nor Vice Chair being available for a meeting, Cllr Farlow will act as ex-officio Chair.

**Item 7. Any other competent business.** None raised.

**Item 8. Date and time of next AGM.** This will be in June 2016, the actual date will be decided by the CC after the elections in November 2015.

Meeting closed at 7.30pm.