

# Ardgay & District Community Council



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<b>Meeting 13 June 2022 - Draft Minutes</b>	
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	13 June 2022 at 7:00 PM
<b>Location:</b>	Ardgay Hall
<b>Present:</b>	Betty Wright, Chair (BW); Silvia Muras, Vice Chair (SM); Marion Turner, Secretary (MT); Andy Wright (AW); Rob Pope (RP); Buster Crabb (BC); Anna McInnes, Minutes Secretary (AM)
<b>Also attending:</b>	David Watson, Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust (DW); Councillor Marianne Hutchison (MH), Councillor Michael Baird (MB)

<b>AGENDA ITEMS</b>	
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome from the Chairperson:</b> BW opened the meeting & welcomed all.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Apologies:</b> John Denniston, Anna Patfield, Christine Mackay
<b>3.</b>	<b>Approval of May 2022 minutes:</b> Approved as true and accurate record. Proposed BW, Seconded AW
<b>4.</b>	<b>Matters Arising:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Footpath project:</b> BW has not heard back from Matt Dent. Hoping to meet over the summer. Will report back any news.</li> <li>● <b>Riverwoods film – To be shown Weds 29<sup>th</sup> June:</b> Advertised in Kyle Chronicle. Encourage everyone to view.</li> <li>● <b>AMAT Telephone Mast:</b> MT to follow-up on query sent to THC re: how many households benefit from additional mast. CC has until 15th July to respond. Clarified this is 3rd mast in small area that already has good coverage whereas there is huge gap in rest of area. Frustrating to be consultee but not receive any response on queries raised. <b>ACTION MT</b></li> </ul>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Chairperson's Report (BW):</b> BW clarified fence and gate put up at entrance to Gearrachoille Community Wood was done by resident to stop dumping. BW also noted John Denniston has stood down as Treasurer for health problems, and expressed thanks to him for his work on the CC and input on other community matters.
<b>6.</b>	<b>Secretary's Report - including Correspondence &amp; Matters raised by local residents (MT):</b> All correspondence circulated by email prior to meeting. Items of note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>John O'Groats Trail:</i> MT will write to confirm our support. <b>ACTION MT</b></li> <li>● <i>Gledfield Distillery:</i> MT will write to confirm CC is supportive. <b>ACTION MT</b></li> <li>● <i>Dalwhinnie Level Crossing:</i> MT to respond that we haven't used this crossing. <b>ACTION MT</b></li> <li>● <i>Midfearn Distillery:</i> MT acknowledged receipt, can signpost to Fisheries Trust as noted experts.</li> <li>● <i>Complaint about Jubilee flags:</i> MT responded that Jubilee organised by KoSDT/Lord Lieutenant but CC did award funds to Hub and Culrain Hall.</li> <li>● <i>Forestry Community strategy:</i> BW to invite them to next CC meeting in August. <b>ACTION BW</b></li> </ul>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Treasurer's Report:</b> JD emailed report prior to meeting. As of 30th May 2022 balance at the bank was: £44,830.84. This notionally comprises: Restricted funds: £44,421.67; CC Admin fund: £370.195; Windfarm Admin fund: £38.975. The balances of the restricted funds are: BnO: £24,099.37; CnC: £18,827.02; BTWF Community Projects: £1,422.08; RWE Path: £73.20 Expenditure since 29th Apr 2022: £4,000 to KoSDT Helping Hand Home Energy Fund from CnC. Income since 29th Apr 2022: None. Expenditure not in statement yet: None.

8.	<p><b>Regular Updates:</b></p> <p><b>Planning issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Strathroy windfarm: Consultation on Application 22/02442/FUL.</i> Increased turbine height. No comment from CC previously.</li> <li>• <i>Strath Oykel Wind Farm and battery storage proposal</i> - consultation request re application for consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989. 11 turbines, comments by 19 July. Not on agenda- MT to ask for extension so that community council can discuss at August meeting and submit comments. <b>ACTION MT</b></li> <li>• TRACC planning app approved.</li> </ul> <p><b>Climate Issues:</b> Apologies from AP. Planet Sutherland will be holding events during Highland Climate Festival to be held from 25<sup>th</sup> June – 3<sup>rd</sup> July.</p> <p><b>Windfarms:</b> Covered in planning issues item above.</p> <p><b>Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust (DW):</b> Struggling to find operator for <i>Falls of Shin</i> due to staffing issues across the Highlands; report from National Lottery to be released into public domain soon. <i>South Bonar Toilets</i> has planning permission to install motor home facilities. SEPA-objection has gone to Scottish Govt. to review. <i>Bothy &amp; Larder</i> have been busy: 8k people served. Community café back up and running. All the Community Halls in area (except Bonar Bridge) have generators and defibrillators, and 3 mobile defibrillators for ghillies at Fisheries Trust. <i>The Barn</i> lost income when Highland Wireless left, now have business to take over space. The post box has been installed at <i>Bonar Post office</i>. The <i>KoSDT AGM</i> will be held in July, combine with Nat. Lottery/HIE meeting to allow questions. Reviewing Trust membership, not reviewed since Covid.</p> <p><b>Highland council:</b> 2 councillors in attendance. Welcome to Marianne Hutchison, newly-elected Councillor based in Lochinver. Updates from Michael Baird:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raised issue of vacant Gledfield schoolhouse with Mark Rodgers who handles housing at THC. Gledfield is not the only instance, issue has been raised previously. Looking at staff accommodation in Old Migdale hospital.</li> <li>• South Bonar straight was originally addressed in November 2021; now considering traffic calming measures. Follow-up meeting to be scheduled. MH suggested getting people to visit areas of concern, keep pressing issues.</li> <li>• THC are checking planning consents and community charges on the residential caravan which is now in the field SE of Ardgay Garage.</li> </ul>
9.	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SM proposed to plant Nobel fir trees in square, where we usually put Christmas tree, possibly as part of Queen’s Green Canopy. All welcomed the idea.</li> </ul>
10.	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b> 8th August 2022, to be held via Zoom web conference.</p>
11.	<p><b>Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund Applications (private session):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application to the Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farm fund from the Ladybird Club for the project Ladybird Club was approved in the amount of £350.</li> <li>• Application to the Beinn nan Oighrean Wind Farm fund from the Royal British Legion Scotland, Creich and Kincardine with Lairg and Rogart Branch, for the Commemoration of the centenary of Kincardine (Ardgay) War Memorial was approved in the amount of £250.</li> <li>• Application to Coire na Cloiche Wind Farm fund from KoSDT Helping Hands was approved in the amount of £4000 for 3 years.</li> </ul>