

Ardgay & District Community Council



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Meeting 14 August 2023 - Draft Minutes	
Date & Time:	14 August 2023 at 7:00 PM
Location:	Culrain Hall
CC Members Present:	Chair Betty Wright (BW); Vice Chair Silvia Muras (SM); Secretary & Treasurer Marion Turner (MT); Andy Wright (AW); Buster Crabb (BC); Minutes Secretary Anna McInnes (AM)
Also attending:	Cllr Michael Baird (MB), David Watson, Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust (DW); Stuart Hewlett (SH); Christine MacKay (CM); Jan Charge (JC), Graham Charge (GC), Rob Gale (RG), Elspeth Calder (EC); Ann Henderson (AH), Robert Henderson (RH).

AGENDA ITEMS	
1.	Welcome from the Chairperson (BW): BW opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.
2.	Apologies: Rob Pope, Anna Patfield
3.	Updates to members register of interests: No interests were declared.
4.	Approval of June 2023 minutes: Approved as accurate record. Proposed MT, Seconded AW.
5.	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20mph zone signs in place around Ardgay: 20mph will also be painted on road surface. CC will contact THC regarding installing flashing lights to remind motorists of new speed limit. THC has said the section of road past Gledfield school doesn't qualify for 20mph, this has been raised previously by MB who suggested CC contact Lisa MacKellaich, THC safety officer who signs off proposals. Action MT • Meeting with Highland Broadband re: rollout of superfast fibre broadband in Ardgay & surrounding areas: MT/BW/SM provided update from the meeting. There will be fibre to every premises, even hard to reach properties. Installation will be a phased rollout starting by end of August/September, will go as far as Rosehall. There will be a maildrop and information in the Kyle Chronicle. All local halls will get broadband connection and add to community resilience. • Ardgay – Bonar straight, road traffic order consultation ended 07/08/23: MB updated no objections received and will now go to final traffic order consultation lasting one month. If no objections received, 50mph will become permanent instead of 60, with 20mph extended to the exchange near the KoS Hub.
6.	Chairperson's Report (BW): No items to report.
7.	<p>Secretary's Report - including Correspondence & Matters raised by local residents (MT): All correspondence circulated by email prior to meeting. Items of note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From an individual: comments re: dangers of cycling along singletrack roads & asking about status of cycling on the pavement between Ardgay & Bonar: resident raised issue of dangerous cycling conditions along Bonar straight, cycling with child trailer attached and can't use pavement. MB to look into whether the pavement be designated for both cyclists and pedestrians. MT to notify resident the issue will be passed to THC. ACTION MT/MB • Enquiry from resident about SSEN progress: No updates received from SSEN to date. • UK Gov Pylon benefit consultation: CC response submitted. • KoS Hub enquiry re: Coire na Cloiche community benefit funds: BW has replied by email. • FLS email re: proposed purchase of public forestry land to private individual around Carbisdale Castle: GC noted meeting to be held Saturday to gauge Culrain community position. Samantha Kane will brief community on plans, followed by private residents'

	<p>discussion. DW noted KoSDT was also asked by FLS but will revert to community position. GC will collate community views in email reply to FLS by following Saturday, will copy in CC when sending. BW noted that the CC will respond to FLS after hearing from GC.</p>
8.	<p>Treasurer's Report (MT): As of 31 July 2023, balance at the bank was: £52,193.64. This notionally comprises: Restricted funds: £50,548.61; CC Admin fund: £813.17; Windfarm Admin fund: £831.87. The balances of the restricted funds are: BnO: £27,349.37; CnC: £21,846.14; BTWF Community Projects: £1,279.90; RWE Path: £73.20. Expenditure since 30 June 2023: Hall rental June meetings: £25.00; CnC award to KoS Gala £400. Income since 30 June 2023: Admin Grant from THC: £485.03. Expenditure not yet in statement: Nil. Income not yet in statement: Coire na Cloiche windfarm community benefit: £23,841.00; Beinn nan Oighrean windfarm community benefit: £4077.00.</p> <p>MT noted receipt of the annual grant from THC. The Zoom subscription has been discontinued and will likely use Teams going forward for any virtual meetings. All agreed for MT to send requests for evaluation to multi-year award recipients. ACTION MT</p>
9.	<p>Local Place Plans: The Scottish Government has introduced Local Place Plans to encourage communities to play an active role in planning for their area. By developing and submitting a Local Place Plan, communities can set out a vision and priorities for the future of their local place. THC will use these plans to inform the next Local Development Plan. Plans are to be submitted by June 2024. Click here for more information. BW suggest to park this for a future meeting after CC elections.</p>
10.	<p>Sutherland Community Transport Consultation: Representatives have been invited to September CC meeting. DW advised a company has been setup to look at solutions on what is available/not available/where are the gaps/what is needed for future demand. An update will be coming in September. MT asked for any comments to be fed in to CC to respond to consultation.</p>
11.	<p>Regular Updates:</p> <p>Climate Emergency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UN now refers to the climate crisis as 'global boiling' due to recording highest temperature on record. BW readout email update from Anna Patfield: Highland & Islands Climate Festival to be held in September. <p>SSEN Proposed Pylon Route:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BW noted that there has been no further update from SSEN. The forum of CCs has drafted a letter to be sent to Ofgem, SSEN, THC but has not yet been sent. CC will remain in dialog with community and SSEN on this issue. <p>Planning issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coul links application to be considered in September. BW remind MB that CC objects to the development. <p>Windfarms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meall Buidhe (Croick Windfarm) PPA-270-2277 approved by SG reporter. 8 turbines, 40 MW to provide £200k pa community benefit funds, 95% of which will be coming to Creich, ADCC, with 5% to Lochinver. <p>Kyle of Sutherland Resilience Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates since last meeting. <p>Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust (DW):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently in legal discussions with acceptable offer on the Falls of Shin site and will issue an update in due course. Other Trust updates can be found in the latest Kyle Chronicle issue.

	<p>Highland Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bonar Straight Speed Limit: Notice from THC that traffic order relating to 50/ 30mph speed limit changes along Bonar straight has been applied for. A&DCC noted their support.
12.	<p>AOCB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming CC elections: to be held in November, with nominations open 5 September to 3 October for anyone over 16 on electoral record, encourage younger residents. • Gearchoille Community Wood: AGM held on 6th August. 2024 will be the 20th anniversary of coming into community ownership. Working with Beth at KoSDT on lots of activities. • Church closures: CM confirmed church and hall buildings in Bonar and Ardgay are being put up for sale, but will stay open until sold. Bonar & Ardgay will be in a union with Dornoch. Croick Church to be taken over by trustees, possibly to become a museum, but hopefully continue monthly services. Rosehall has a reprieve until 2026. Poor building conditions are driving sales.
13.	<p>Date of next meeting: 11 September 2023. This will be the last meeting with this current CC before elections are held.</p>
14.	<p>Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund Applications (private session):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application to the Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farm fund from the Ladybird Club for Pre-school group sessions in Ardgay Hall was approved in the amount of £500.

Meeting ended at 21:03