

Ardgay & District Community Council



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Meeting 12 December 2022 - Draft Minutes

Date & Time:	12 December 2022 at 7:00 PM
Location:	Zoom Web Conference
Present:	Betty Wright, Chair (BW); Silvia Muras, Vice Chair (SM); Marion Turner, Secretary & Treasurer (MT); Andy Wright (AW); Buster Crabb (BC); Anna McInnes, Minutes Secretary (AM)
Also attending:	Cllr Michael Baird (MB); David Watson, Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust (DW); Christine Mackay (CM)

AGENDA ITEMS

1.	Welcome from the Chairperson: BW opened the meeting & welcomed all.
2.	Apologies: Rob Pope; Anna Patfield, Planet Sutherland
3.	Approval of November 2022 minutes: Approved as accurate record. Proposed AW, Seconded MT
4.	Matters Arising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Xmas Tree & Lights: BW expressed thanks to everyone who helped, special thanks to Andy Murray for the tree, Jamie and Annabel Macrae for putting up lights.
5.	Chairperson's Report (BW): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New noticeboard in village needed: discussion around a new notice board in village for CC notices and tourist information. All agree to proceed in short term with simple information board for CC notices, and look to install an expanded version in future with area/tourist information, once further along with walking routes, other projects, etc.
6.	Secretary's Report - including Correspondence & Matters raised by local residents (MT): All correspondence circulated by email prior to meeting. Items of note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How best Community Councils can report or raise issues with Highland Council?:</i> Recent email sent from Phil Tomalin signposting residents to THC online portal. MT to reply to Phil Thomalin to query this; as a CC we want to do more than signpost to the online portal, need to engage with community on more complicated issues, which we would usually report to Ward Manager or other council officials. ACTION MT • <i>20mph Speed Limit Pilot:</i> confirmed Ardgay will be on list of communities to pilot reduced speed limit. • <i>Defibrillator:</i> SM advised one of the community defibrillators needs batteries. SM to send invoice to MT to pay. ACTION SM/MT
7.	Treasurer's Report (MT): MT has put bank statements in shared folder to show fund activity. Expenditures since last report include, Replacement pads for defibrillator at Culrain, payment to Minutes Secretary. Balance of funds is £57,626.26. Further detail can be made available upon request. Items still to be paid include Poppy wreath, additional defibrillator, Scotways subscription renewal.
8.	Ardgay, Creich, Lairg Community Action plan (discussion of future use of Community Benefit funds) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates received from Karen Derrick.

9.	<p>Regular Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strath Oykel Wind Farm: email from Scottish Government consents unit inviting further comments on National Planning Framework 4 being laid in Parliament, will be the framework in place during the public enquiry, changes parameters for onshore wind meeting climate targets. • Climate Issues: No items to discuss. • Windfarms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MT and DW attended recent Sallachy meeting. Community benefit is finalised, next step to consider how fund is managed. Larger discussion about managing wind farm benefits going forward, coming to grips community ownership aspect, admin and governance. All agreed there is potential to create a good job for someone in community and develop expertise locally. BW & MT will meet about this in New Year and report back to full CC. • Kyle of Sutherland Resilience plan: No updates. BW notes it is good to have in situations such as this with icy conditions. • Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust (DW): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Resilience: leaflets placed in the Kyle Chronicle re: SSEN Priority Services Register. Hoping to hold annual CPR/defib training and train community trainers. First Community Resilience Day to be held Saturday 25th February 2023. ○ Bonar Bridge Post Office: belated official opening held on 15 November. Thanks to BW/AW for attending, thanks to funders including CC. ○ Falls of Shin Temporary toilets not used much during winter, and cost £2400 per quarter to operate. Creich CC not funding next quarter but to consider funding again in Spring/Summer 2023. ○ Falls of Shin Visitor Centre: Deadline for community group proposals to take over the site was 30th November; assessed by board last week. Robust meeting about proposition, unanimous decision to be revealed once all stakeholders contacted. ○ South Bonar Toilets: Scottish Government upheld SEPA objection, so KoSDT will not continue with proposed planning application. ○ Christmas Support: Two Christmas Community Food Larders this year on 20th and 23rd December with hampers available for those who can't make it. Festive event in bothy for volunteers, annual Christmas lunch. Distributing 49 home warmth kits (incl. blanket, socks, hot water bottle), and 59 Christmas boxes for kids across Sutherland. Working with MFR Mission Christmas appeal. BC noted large donation from Rotary Club to community larder. • Highland Council (MB): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 20mph speed limit: still working through the logistics but aim to have 20mph all the way through villages including Dornoch-Lairg-Ardgay& Bonar Bridge. ○ Local bus contract: awarded to Rapsons who want to withdraw Saturday service leaving many people without transport. Creich and Lairg CCs to send letter, and MB recommends Ardgay also do so. MT to write to David Summers at THC. ACTION MT ○ Wind farm benefits: MB is confident the motion within Highland Council to increase community benefits will prevail, the first increase since 2005.
10.	AOCB: Nothing raised.
11.	Date of next meeting: 13 February 2023, to be held via Zoom web conference.
12.	<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 Bonar Bridge FC for the Car park and playing field lighting project was approved in the amount of £2,000. • Application to the Beinn nan Oighrean Wind Farm fund from Invershin Hall for the Balance Bikes project was approved in the amount of £126.