

# Ardgay & District Community Council



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## Meeting 13 February 2023 - Draft Minutes

<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	13 February 2023 at 7:00 PM
<b>Location:</b>	Zoom Web Conference
<b>Present:</b>	Betty Wright, Chair (BW); Silvia Muras, Vice Chair (SM); Marion Turner, Secretary & Treasurer (MT); Andy Wright (AW); Anna McInnes, Minutes Secretary (AM)
<b>Also attending:</b>	Cllr Michael Baird (MB); Cllr Marianne Hutchison (MH); Anna Patfield, Planet Sutherland (AP); Donna M. Gillies, Hirsell Enterprises (DG); Christine Mackay (CM); Stuart Hewlett (SH)

## AGENDA ITEMS

<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome from the Chairperson:</b> BW opened the meeting & welcomed all.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Updates to members register of interests:</b> AM declared interest in windfarm application from Invershin Hall as her daughter will attend the Balance Bikes session. She will recuse herself from voting on this application. MB noted KoSDT board members must be declared at each meeting.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Apologies:</b> Rob Pope; Buster Crabb
<b>4.</b>	<b>Approval of December 2022 minutes:</b> Approved as accurate record. Proposed BW, Seconded AW.
<b>5.</b>	<b>Matters Arising:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Xmas Tree &amp; Lights:</b> BW noted thanks to Jamie and Magnus Macrae for taking down lights and to MT and AW for taking down the tree.</li> <li>• <b>Lairg Saturday Bus Service:</b> temporary service agreed for 4 weeks and extended for further 4 weeks. MB notes small number of users, may not continue unless there are more users.</li> </ul>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Chairperson's Report (BW):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SCPP Forum:</b> BW &amp; MT attended Sutherland Community Planning Partnership South &amp; Central forum (including Ardgay, Lairg, Creich, Dornoch, Edderton). Cllr Jim MacGillivray chairing. Groups are being setup for each area.</li> <li>• <b>Flow Country:</b> Formal bid submitted to UNESCO for world heritage status, details here: <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-64497032">www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-64497032</a> Good to see community member Steven Andrews from Culrain involved in submission.</li> <li>• <b>Police Report:</b> have not had one for several years. MT contacted police to offer opportunity to attend meetings or to send for report, did not receive a response.</li> </ul>
<b>7.</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>• Meeting arranged with Maree Todd MSP regarding local mobile connectivity. Lack of mobile signals impacts more than just phone calls, especially for vulnerable residents, also means smart meters cannot be installed in the area.</li> </ul>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Treasurer's Report (MT):</b> As of 20 January 2023 balance at the bank was: £55968.26. This notionally comprises: Restricted funds: £55,405.75; CC Admin fund: £508.67; Windfarm Admin fund: £54.41. The balances of the restricted funds are: BnO: £27,349.37; CnC: £28,246.14; BTWF Community Projects: (£262.96); RWE Path: £73.20. Expenditure since 30 December 2022: BNO Invershin Hall Balance Bikes sessions uplift to meet demand £80; Noticeboards Online – CC noticeboard £895.44. Income since 30 December 2022: Nil. Expenditure not in statement yet: None.
<b>9.</b>	<b>Ardgay, Creich, Lairg Community Action plan</b> (discussion of future use of Community Benefit funds) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BW reported on meeting held 2nd February in Bonar Bridge to run through draft of plan composed by Karen Derrick. Despite every household receiving survey only 16% returned so not really representative enough of area.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purpose of the plan is to identify projects with local backing. Local groups can publicise the plan as they see fit, Karen Derrick is exploring possible funding from SSE to publish. MT to circulate plan to be shared as needed. AM to put up on website and SM to share on Facebook and advertise in Kyle Chronicle. <b>ACTION AM, SM</b></li> </ul>
<p>10.</p>	<p><b>Regular Updates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Planning issues:</b> None raised.</li> <li>• <b>Climate Issues:</b> BW notes 2022 was the hottest UK year on record, article here: <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-64173485">https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-64173485</a>. AP notes increasing awareness being raised through Waste Partnership, Highland Adapts, Planet Sutherland; more people are getting involved and contact with politicians. Highland Climate Festival in September to overlap with Climate Week Scotland.</li> <li>• <b>Windfarms:</b> Garvary Windfarm additional info submitted and comments requested by 20 Feb (S36). Consultation meeting in Bonar Bridge Hall on 27th for SSEN Spittal to Beaully line. BW will put link to information on FB. <b>ACTION BW</b></li> <li>• <b>Kyle of Sutherland Resilience Plan:</b> Request from Creich Surgery for “What 3 Words” locations.</li> <li>• <b>Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust (DW):</b> No report, DW on holiday.</li> <li>• <b>Highland Council:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Updates from MB: Bonar Straight Speed Limit and pilot to reduce speed from 30 to 20. Traffic order has been issued and consultation with police, fire agencies, with public consultation in 6 months. New signage to be put in place. Earliest it will be active will be end of year. Repairs are being made to reported potholes. Awaiting major road improvements, Sutherland budget goes to Committee in May, agreed to see draft of capital works at March meeting.</li> <li>○ Discussion around heating oil theft, reported in Amat on 8th January oil heists in Amat. SH also had disappointing response from police to oil theft at his property.</li> <li>○ Updates from MH: Community Regeneration Fund awards of £700k to Ward 1. She has monthly catchups with Kate Kenmuir from NHS, meeting Ward 1 councillors. Attended Focus North conference last week. She also noted that police contact seems to be better in North Coast communities, and as important part of CC meetings we are entitled to ask for one. SCP headed and chaired by police, can feed back in forum. MT requested this be raised by MH as there is no police presence in Lairg, Ardgay, Bonar Bridge. <b>ACTION MH</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>11.</p>	<p><b>AOCB:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Hannah (DH) emailed to request the following items for discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ (1) The <b>overflowing drain</b> on Ardgay Hill, raised every year, but persists with the drain overflowing and water flooding down the hill, causing a serious hazard when it is icy. (This has been addressed previously, but continues to be a problem). MB to raise with Roads dept. <b>ACTION MB</b></li> <li>○ (2) The <b>pavement/footpath</b> from Ardgay to Bonar Bridge particularly bad at the area from the Ardgay Rail Bridge to opposite the Ice House. This is too narrow for wheelchairs or buggies, rough and uneven due to tree roots. (Raised previously, no evidence of any action taken). MB to raise with Roads dept. <b>ACTION MB</b></li> <li>○ (3) The <b>blind spot</b> at the bottom of Ardgay Hill, nearest Gledfield School - a view mirror was requested - several years ago (no evidence of any action taken). SM noted THC does not install mirrors, residents can install themselves if no complaints from other residents. MT to reply to DH on this. <b>ACTION MT</b></li> <li>○ (4) <b>Sincere thanks</b> for ongoing availability of Ardgay Public Toilets, whilst many others are closed - according to Highland Council - due to vandalism, latest being Dingwall - leaving no public toilets in many towns and villages, Well Done Ardgay.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• CM raised Armed Forces Day even in Golspie in June arranged for 2023, but proposed holding in Drover’s Square going forward to highlight area. CM will meet with KoSDT to discuss forming committee to organise events to celebrate Coronation. AW suggests incorporating elements such as environment/ecology given HMK’s interests there.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SH raised Gledfield school security lights which seem to be on all the time instead of on motion sensor. SM noted new headteacher is reviewing school safety provision/security lights. MT to reach out to headteacher in first instance <b>ACTION MT</b></li> <li>• DG provided overview of new venture Highland Wool CIC and their plans for developing a local woollen mill to support sustainable wool industry in Scotland. Supportive comments from meeting attendees, interested to learn more.</li> </ul>
<b>12.</b>	<b>Date of next meeting:</b> 13 March 2023, to be held in person in Culrain Hall.
<b>13.</b>	<b>Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund Applications (private session):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application to the Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farm fund from Culrain Hall for the Archaeological Survey project was approved in the amount of £1365.60.</li> <li>• Request for £2000 to top-up ADCC village environment projects was approve.</li> <li>• Application to the Beinn nan Oighrean Wind Farm fund from Invershin Hall for the Balance Bikes project was approved in the amount of £80.</li> </ul>

*Meeting ended at 21:22*