

# Ardgay & District Community Council



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<b>Meeting 13 March 2023 - Draft Minutes</b>	
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	13 March 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); Buster Crabb (BC); Anna McInnes, Minutes Secretary (AM)
<b>Also attending:</b>	Cllr Michael Baird (MB); Anna Patfield, Planet Sutherland (AP); David Watson, Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust (DW); Graham Charge, Culrain Hall Committee (GC) Christine Mackay (CM)

<b>AGENDA ITEMS</b>	
<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> None received.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Apologies:</b> Donna Gillies; Rob Pope
<b>4.</b>	<b>Approval of February 2023 minutes:</b> Approved as accurate record. Proposed MT, Seconded AW.
<b>5.</b>	<b>Matters Arising:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lights @ Gledfield school:</b> THC suggested this may be due to a fault. SM will speak to headteacher. <b>ACTION: SM</b></li> <li>• <b>'Report a problem' function via THC website – use of this by ADCC:</b> MT described efforts to report CC issues via online portal as instructed by THC, but turns out it is not actually meant for use by community councils. MT will continue to report issues via Phil Tomalin.</li> <li>• <b>SSEN 400kV line reinforcements Spittal – Loch Buidhe – Beauly:</b> public consultation held in Bonar Bridge Hall, well-attended, all information on SSEN website. All potential route options cross River Carron which will involve CC once preferred routes are designated. Community liaison manager has offered to attend future meeting. MT noted this may also be of interest to Culrain.</li> </ul>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Update From Culrain Hall Committee re: Hall Improvement Plans</b> Graham Charge reported on plans to update Culrain Hall and gave overview of project background. Need to find funding to finish project otherwise planning permission will run out in June. Without renovations the hall will have to close permanently. AP to send links to GC for Local Energy Scotland who may be able to offer support for eco-friendly heating. DW commended the amount of work done so far and offered assistance if needed. SM/MT congratulated GC on the efforts, good to see plan and going in right direction with community involvement.
<b>7.</b>	<b>Chairperson's Report (BW):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Community Action Plan (CAP) – do we want to publicise this at a meeting (jointly with other groups?) Should we print some copies?</b> CAP is on website. Awaiting update from Karen Derrick about SSE funding to publicise/distribute. DW suggested putting on agenda of next SCCP forum to shape how plan can be delivered. Some elements of CAP are already in progress but may not be well known about. MT suggests CC review CAP for discussion.</li> <li>• <b>Map webinar:</b> BW attended Parish Online webinar, overview of online OS maps available for marking with local data to be used as internal tool for CC members only and not available to public. BW has setup account for ADCC and can provide login for CC members. MT would like to try out and put core paths on it. BW to share link with MT. <b>ACTION BW</b></li> </ul>
<b>8.</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>● <b>Proposal for Public Meeting with Police to Offer Guidance re: Security, Fraud Etc.:</b> MB will arrange public meeting with police with agreement of 3 area CCs. BW suggested to meet in Ardgay Hall in June. MB has raised the lack of policing infrastructure and lack of police engagement with ADCC. BW will put on agenda in future under apologies. <b>ACTION BW</b></li> <li>● <b>Offer of Free Web Page:</b> AM provided update- lots of interest from CCs so we will be informed if ADCC is selected for help with website development.</li> <li>● <b>Appreciation of Local Toilets:</b> BW to suggested donation goes to food larder instead as we don't upkeep toilets anymore. All agreed.</li> <li>● <b>Road Maintenance:</b> discussed in item 10; with appreciation from David Hannah noted.</li> </ul>
9.	<p><b>Treasurer's Report (MT):</b> As of 8 February 2023, balance at the bank was: £55812.82. This notionally comprises: Restricted funds: £55,249.75; 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: (£418.96); RWE Path: £73.20. Expenditure since 30 January 2023: BTWF Community Heartbeat replacement batteries Culrain £156. Income since 30 January 2023: Nil. Expenditure not in statement yet: None.</p>
10.	<p><b>Regular Updates:</b></p> <p><i>Planning issues:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>23/00257/S42:</b> Energiekontor extend permission for met mast for further 24 months. No comments required from ADCC.</li> <li>● <b>Coul Links:</b> New application for 18-hole golf course, after the 2020 application was rejected by Scottish Government (SG) Ministers. Comments are open until 7th April. ADCC position to remain as in the previous application that the decision should be made by SG Ministers due to national significance. MT will send letter. <b>ACTION MT</b></li> </ul> <p><i>Climate Issues:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● AP reported upcoming local activities to support climate action: Table Top Sale on 1st April in Ardgay Hall; discussions ongoing with KoSDT and Ardgay Hall re: setting up community markets and climate cafes; H&amp;I climate festival planning in progress to be held in September; event on peat restoration to be held in Bonar Hall.</li> </ul> <p><i>Windfarms:</i> no updates.</p> <p><i>Kyle of Sutherland Resilience Plan:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● AW has flagged unstable internet connection with Highland Wireless; this poses risk of no phone when there is no internet. Will continue to flag.</li> <li>● Community Resilience Day to be held on Saturday 25th March in Rosehall Hall.</li> </ul> <p><i>Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust (DW):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Falls of Shim:</b> Following unsuccessful community bid the Trust is looking at parameters of sale with Lottery but it is a slow process. Trust would like to ensure all monies from sale should remain in community and will provide a public update when the process completes. The Trust is looking for support from stakeholders who can help prevent misinformation being circulated via vexatious website and social media.</li> <li>● <b>Funding:</b> Received £325k over next 3 years from the SG Investing in Communities Fund to create community garden next to polytunnel and funding for community gardeners. Also secured extended period of funding for Bev &amp; Beth's roles. Over the last 4 years the Trust has secured £2.5m which is a tremendous achievement!</li> <li>● DW will speak at Lairg primary about being a Viking at Up Helly Aa and possibly doing the same at Bonar Bridge Primary.</li> <li>● On the horizon: Looking to get into heritage projects in the area.</li> </ul> <p><i>Highland Council (MB):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Bonar Straight Speed Limit</b> and pilot to reduce speed from 30 to 20. MB has raised with Tracey Urry, Malcolm MacLeod at THC and MSP Marie Todd. Frustrated at how long it is dragging on.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Overflowing drain and footpath:</b> MB followed up on David Hannah’s queries and received reply from Brian Fraser, THC Sutherland Roads Officer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Overflowing drain on Ardgay Hill: will ascertain if there is an easy fix or need to involve the Technical Team.</li> <li>○ Footpath from Ardgay to Bonar Bridge: this was constructed as part of rail bridge replacement in 1970's which due to issues with land procurement and the need for a safety barrier meant there was insufficient space to construct a full two-lane carriageway and footway. There is little that can be easily done to alter the footway width but will look at the surface condition with a view to making improvements.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
11.	<p><b>AOCB:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flower tubs in Ardgay Square: SM to contact Jean and express CC appreciation for planting in previous years, and to ask if she will do it again this year. <b>ACTION SM</b></li> <li>• MT asked MB about traffic light on Struy bridge which has listed building status. To be discussed at a future meeting.</li> <li>• AW noted new private parking signage installed by Carron Bridge car park which many people use to access river walks. CC should be able to signpost this car park for core path walks; there are no other safe parking areas nearby. All agreed BW will send letter to landowner asking for removal or justification. <b>ACTION BW</b></li> <li>• BC asked MB about impact of proposed Deposit Return Scheme on the area; will discuss at a future meeting.</li> </ul>
12.	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b> 15th May 15th via Zoom (moved for Coronation Bank holiday on 6th May)</p>
13.	<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 Highland Wool CIC for the pilot wool project was approved in the amount of £2000.</li> <li>• Application to the Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farm fund from the Kyle of Sutherland Hub for Hub support costs was approved in the amount of £2000.</li> <li>• Application to the Coire na Cloiche Farm fund from the Kyle of Sutherland Hub for the fitness &amp; wellbeing coordinator project was approved in the amount of £2000.</li> </ul>

*Meeting ended at 21:25*