

Ardgay & District Community Council



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Meeting 14 November 2022 - Draft Minutes

Date & Time:	14 November 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); Anna McInnes, Minutes Secretary (AM)
Also attending:	Anna Patfield, Planet Sutherland (AP); David Watson, Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust (DW); Cllr Michael Baird (MB); Cllr Marianne Hutchison (MH); Christine Mackay (CM); Donna Gillies, The Hirsell (DG)

AGENDA ITEMS

1.	Welcome from the Chairperson: BW opened the meeting & welcomed all.
2.	Apologies: Rob Pope, Buster Crabb
3.	Approval of September 2022 minutes: Approved as accurate record. Proposed MT, Seconded BW
4.	Matters Arising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footpath Project: No further responses received from notice in Kyle Chronicle; may need to consider carrying forward in more limited way. • Ardgay Hall: AW attended AGM in October. Concerns over generator which Beth from KoSDT has in hand. AP is coordinating Xmas Faire, noted all tables have been booked.
5.	Chairperson's Report (BW): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beinn Tharsuinn AGM: Discussion re: use of funds to individual households for fitting smoke detectors and insulation. Scottish Power Renewables rep said this was OK. DW noted that he will meet with Edderton CC about potential support as they have no Development Trust. • Hydrogen Project at Beinn Tharsuinn site: Exhibition in Edderton Hall. Local distilleries involved, but no comment was made on proposed Midfearn distillery. • Letter from KoS Hub asking for support for their Falls of Shin proposal: MT circulated the Hub consultation to ensure everyone sighted. SM noted that a member of A&DCC is always appointed as one of the directors of KoSDT. CC members are free to support and respond as individuals. MT to send reply confirming our support of KoSDT in their handling of this matter copying DW to ensure transparency. ACTION MT
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"> • Requests for information about the community from potential resident, and a reporter writing an article on Kenny Campbell, who was renowned for taking a piano up Ben Nevis. • Resident inquired about becoming new CC member was invited to meeting but no reply.
7.	Treasurer's Report (MT): No activity to report since last meeting. Items to be paid include Poppy wreath, pad for defibrillator, £20 Scotways subscription renewal. ACTION MT
8.	Ardgay, Creich, Lairg Community Action plan (discussion of future use of Community Benefit funds) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received 302 responses to survey that was distributed every household. Key points were put on posters for display during Big Conversation events held in Lairg and Ardgay Halls and the Hub. Further comments were welcomed and lots of great ideas presented. Next step is for Karen Derrick to collate into report to return to Steering Group before Christmas.

9.	<p>Arrangements for Christmas tree & lights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jamie Macrae has agreed to put lights up. Andy Murray will supply a tree. • SM has obtained pricing on living tree that can be planted for a long-term solution but not enough time to put up for this year. All agree to purchase and plant tree in Spring 2023.
10.	<p>Regular Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Telecoms Mast at Amat has been approved but the issue of poor or no coverage in areas is ongoing with MSP Maree Todd is looking into it. ○ Planning application: 22/04612/LBC – Old Schoolhouse, BW to review. • Climate Issues: COP27 in Egypt viewable on Guardian livestream. • Windfarms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strathoykel Windfarm – THC planning officers recommended approval but North Planning Cttee rejected application, now likely to go to public inquiry. ○ Meall Buidhe: Muirden have appealed, application now with DPEA PPA-270-2277 open to comments till 30th November. ○ BW reminder that Community Action Plan proposals depend on windfarm benefits. MB noted he will submit a motion to THC to review community benefit amounts and ask £10k per megawatt, noting 2 windfarms have already increased to £7k. • Kyle of Sutherland Resilience plan: No changes to note. AW/BW attended recent defibrillator training provided by KoSDT. • Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust (DW): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bonar Bridge Post Office: official opening to be held 15 November (previously delayed due to Covid restrictions). ○ Cost of Living Crisis: trying to raise more money for Christmas support. Larder now open Friday evenings, including new pets larder. Investigating establishing a log bank for solid fuel. ○ Resilience: 55 people attended defibrillator/CPR training and generator demonstration. DW gave presentation to HTSI resilience group, KoSDT plan is lauded as best in the region. ○ Falls of Shin: temporary toilets still in place and funded until January 2023. Deadline for community group proposals to take over the site is 30th November; expecting a few options to be presented. Proposal will have to be approved by funders based on options presented by board. Most visited visitor attraction in central Sutherland. ○ Staffing: awarded further 3 years funding from Robertson Trust for Beth to continue in her role. Awaiting decision on funding application to Scottish Govt for Bev's team. DW recently interviewed by Good Morning Scotland. • Highland Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ardgay-Bonar straight speed limit: Sutherland County Cttee agreed to proposal put forth by Roads dept for 50/30mph speed limits which will now go out for public consultation. However, MB notes that Bonar Bridge is on the list of 130 settlements in Scottish Government pilot to reduce 30mph to 20mph. This effectively means the Bonar Straight proposal will be 40/20mph instead of 50/30mph. As this is done by temporary traffic regulation order, no consultation is needed. MT asked MB to request that Ardgay was also included. ○ MH provided update on recent Housing Infrastructure Cttee meeting.
11.	<p>AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MB noted Road closure by Shin railway bridge on 29 November from 9am -13:00.
12.	<p>Date of next meeting: 12 December 2022, to be held via Zoom web conference.</p>
13.	<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 Culrain Hall for the Food Larder project was approved in the amount of £2,000.