

Ardgay & District Community Council



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Meeting 8 August 2022 - Draft Minutes

Date & Time:	8 August 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:	Kate Kenmuir, NHS (KK); David Watson, Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust (DW); Councillor Michael Baird (MB); Christine Mackay (CM)

AGENDA ITEMS

1.	Welcome from the Chairperson: BW opened the meeting & welcomed all.
2.	Apologies: Rob Pope, Buster Crabb, Cllr Marianne Hutchison
3.	<p>Kate Kenmuir, NHS: Future Services for Sutherland – late addition to agenda KK provided overview of NHS services in Sutherland and update on Strathy Ward at Migdale hospital: 4 beds were held to relieve pressures from Raigmore but aspiration is to open beds fully. Trying to resume physio services in Migdale which are currently available via GP practice. Vaccinations to be provided in Migdale. Recruitment has been a challenge. KK asked for views on services to provide as part of Together We Care strategy. BW suggested article in Kyle Chronicle to raise community awareness. AW would like to see more support for Mental health issues at different levels. SM highlighted need for maternity services management especially issue of travel.</p>
4.	Approval of June 2022 minutes: Approved as true and accurate record. Proposed MT, Seconded AW
5.	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footpath Project: MT, AW, BW, DW have met to discuss getting project started with core paths in Ardgay with potential to expand into Sutherland and include cycle paths. First action is to walk the core paths and identify any problems, flag where to install benches. Will need to engage THC access officer Matt Dent for input on changes or updates required to core paths. MT recommended involving KoS walking club and put article in Kyle Chronicle with suggested date for people to meet and walk paths along Carron River. AW noted need to think longer term on how to advertise and integrate with national groups. Potential to become a huge project with scope for funding. BW to contact Matt Dent, arrange date for walks and identify who to liaise with. ACTION BW • AMAT Telephone Mast: MT and BW attended MSP Maree Todd's recent surgery to ask why public money is being spent to upgrade a few residents from 4G to 5G when most residents have no coverage at all. Maree's office has passed it on to EE as it is a shared rural network public EE mast. CC has made a comment objecting to THC planning. Since this is not a material concern for planners there is not much else we can do beyond flagging to elected representatives and wait for outcome of planning application.
6.	Chairperson's Report (BW): The Community Action Plan is being taken forward with Creich, Lairg and Ardgay CCs. AM and DW gave update on steering group meeting held on 27th July to discuss status of 2018 locality plan and next steps. The next meeting is 25th August at Bonar Bridge Hall.
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"> • Abandoned car: MT is chasing up; has not been taxed/MOT'd for over a year. • Forestry consultation: BW had contacted FLS to invite to meeting but had no reply. SM,

	BW offered to help MT formulate and submit comments based on the badly-handled previous consultation. ACTION MT
8.	<p>Treasurer's Report (MT): As of 6th June 2022, balance at the bank was: £44,614.84. This notionally comprises: Restricted funds: £44,121.67; CC Admin fund: £251.70; Windfarm Admin fund: £241.48. The balances of the restricted funds are: BnO: £24,099.37; CnC: £18,827.02; BTWF Community Projects: £1,122.08; RWE Path: £73.20. Expenditure since 30th May 2022: £21.00 Hall hire; £195.00 Secretariat. Transferred since 30th May 2022: £300.00 from BTWF Community Projects to Windfarm Admin. Income since 30th May 2022: None. Expenditure not in statement yet: £250.00 to BNO award to RBL War Memorial Celebration; £21.00 Hall hire for June meeting and AGM; £240.00 CnC award to Gala Week; £35.25 annual web hosting costs; £143.88 annual Zoom subscription.</p> <p>MT to chase up Phil Tomalin re: admin grant ACTION MT</p>
9.	<p>Regular Updates:</p> <p>Planning issues: <i>Strath Oykel wind farm development.</i> Section 36 application ECU 00003246. 11 turbines at 200m tip height, 72.6 MW, 1.5 km south of Dounie.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CC received an extension to submit response so we could have on this meeting agenda. Section 36 is deemed national importance so will be decided by Scottish Government with THC comments. BW highlighted we are in climate crisis and should be part of solution by supporting clean energy in our area. AW: strongly supports this development, the facts support need for renewables. SM noted community opposition; CC duty to represent community and recommend rejecting this application. MT proposed response to remain neutral, however recognise community split on the issue but this CC has declared climate emergency. BW proposed to adopt this position as majority agreed. MT to submit response ACTION MT <p>Climate Issues: No further items raised.</p> <p>Windfarms: <i>Meall Buidhe</i> refused planning permission by North Planning Committee, overturning recommendation to consent by planning officials. MB noted that THC has 90 days to appeal.</p> <p>Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust (DW): KoSDT AGM was held on August 3rd as well as <i>Falls of Shin</i> public meeting. Due to impact on Trust finances, asked Lottery for permission to sell facility, they will decide at meeting next Wednesday. Potential for social enterprise to take it on and if so KoSDT will support business planning efforts. <i>South Bonar Toilets:</i> SG officer to visit and make decision. Will need to look at potential funding issues. <i>Barn Bothy & Larder</i> are both going well. Two new officers recruited to support SCCP starting soon.</p> <p>Highland council: Updates from Councillor Baird: <i>Migdale Hospital</i> will provide hearing tests, vaccinations, and more services to return. <i>Roads update:</i> disappointing outcome on Bonar straight speed limit. Sutherland Committee now looking at traffic calming measures instead of speed limit reduction. MB has contacted Maree Todd but no response yet. MB welcomes suggestions on how to move forward and will continue to pursue where possible. BW thanked MB for his efforts.</p>
10.	<p>AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No matters raised.
11.	Date of next meeting: 12 September 2022, 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 Coire na Cloiche Wind Farm fund from the Kyle of Sutherland Gala Committee for the project Gala Week was approved in the amount of £240.