

Minutes of Meeting held on 11th November, 2004 in the Community Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present : Alistair McCowan; Janet Mackay; Ishbel Ferguson; George Graham; Juliet Mellor; Murdo Finlayson

Police Constable Ian Campbell

Apologies from Councillor Ewen Mackinnon

Minutes of Previous Meeting

It was unanimously agreed that under 'Housing Needs Survey', the wording in the first paragraph, line 3 should read "all adults" not "all male adults". With that correction, the minutes were accepted as a true record, proposed George Graham, seconded Murdo Finlayson.

Treasurer's Report

The balance on the account is £1,726.29.

Applecross Woodlands

Bob Wilson was not available to provide an update. There was no discussion on this item.

Wester Ross Local Plan Update

Murdo Finlayson reported on the pre-enquiry meeting in Kinlochewe on 4th November (which was attended by 13 objectors and two members of the planning team).

Basically the enquiry will be very informal, it is hoped to complete in around one week and Michael Thompson, the reporter appointed by the Scottish Executive at the request of Highland Council asks that objections should be presented by one person on behalf of any organisation or group.

It was unanimously agreed that Murdo will act for us and deal with objections. The closing date for further objections is 17th November and the enquiry starts on 17th January, 2005. Murdo has all further detailed information and should be contacted without delay for advice and any matters concerning objections to the draft Wester Ross Local Plan.

Revised Post Office Hours

The Chairman circulated his report on discussions with Kenny Lamont, Post Office Ltd. Rural Transfer Adviser. Mr. Lamont stated that there is virtually no chance of having the present hours (17 hours per week) extended - but agreed that we have the right to continue our objections and lobby anyone in that connection. There is the possibility, however, of having the current opening times (which have been agreed with the new sub postmaster) changed.

A letter received from Muirne Buchanan, part time delivery post woman and owner of a local mail order business was tabled. This makes a strong case for increasing the present restricted hours.

After much discussion, it was agreed that the Chairman will discuss with the sub postmaster and with Mr. Lamont what adjustments can be made to opening times to give a better service locally, particularly opening during at least some afternoons.

Water Supply Problems

It is generally agreed that chlorine smells are still a nuisance although "black bits" in the water no longer appear to be a problem.

Lighting at Camusterrach Place

It was noted that the lighting at Camusterrach Place has been repaired and is generally now in operation, although there are still some lights not functioning. It was also noted that we have been complaining on this issue since January.

Sheep Droppings at School

There has been no move to install an outside tap at the school to enable us to arrange a droppings removal and wash down service.

Any Other Competent Business

1. Various documents received recently were copied and circulated to all community councillors at the meeting viz.
 - a. Highland Wellbeing Alliance - West Coast Sub-Committee and Developments in Community Planning - Proposals for Further Action : Letter received from Highland Community Planning and Resources Committee dated 4th November.

It was decided that the Secretary will respond giving our three priorities as greater employment opportunities, better communications and better transport service and facilities.

- b. Public Petitions Committee - The Scottish Parliament : It was noted that a plenary/workshop event is to be held on Monday, 29th November in Council Chambers, Inverness, and it was agreed that in view of recent experiences in dealing with the Scottish Parliament on the out-of-hours issue, it might be advantageous to attend. The Chairman will try to be available.
 - c. Listed Buildings Wester Ross Trial Project : It was agreed that the list accompanying the planning officer's request for any additional buildings or features of interest locally seems to cover all which are of interest from either historical or architectural point of view. If anyone thinks of any additions, please contact the Chairman so that we can present these formally.
2. Craite Barn - Path Lighting : A letter from Mrs. Linda Arkley was read by the Chairman. It was noted that she approves of the path lighting and states clearly

- that not all residents of the new development approve of the removal of fuses to render some lights inoperative (which was reported recently).
3. Road Markings at Smithy Corner : It was noted that new road markings have been placed at the junction of the main road and the access road to the farm, campsite and new housing. At the same time, road markings near to the post office have been re-done.
 4. Applecross Public Toilets : After it was established that we are no longer being blamed for the unfortunate accident last Christmas, Ewen Mackinnon has offered financial assistance from his discretionary budget for us to keep the toilets open during the winter, and the Chairman accepted. This was unanimously approved.
 5. Local Lettings Initiative : Juliet Mellor reported that a representative from Albyn Housing proposes to come to our January meeting to discuss the Local Lettings Initiative (after the first year in operation). It was agreed to accept this and formally invite her to the meeting. Anyone having views on the LLI should let Juliet have these before the January meeting.
 6. Paper and Card Recycling at Bottle Bank : It was mentioned that a paper and card recycling bin was expected to be added to the bottle banks at the public car park but this has not materialised.
 7. 20 mph Speed Limit - Shore Street : This matter was again raised in the context that the police are thought not to approve such development. Constable Campbell confirmed that there would be no objection from the police but Highland Council would have to obtain the necessary order to put a 20 mph speed limit in place.
 8. Joint Lochcarron Ward Community Councils' Meeting : It was noted that a joint meeting of community councils in the Lochcarron ward is being organised for January to replace the West Coast Joint Meeting which had not been arranged in 2003 or 2004. It will take place in Shieldaig in January, the preferred date being Friday 21st January (subject to confirmation). All community councillors will be invited as compared to two representatives to previous joint west coast meetings.

Next Meeting

It was decided not to hold a meeting in December; the next regular community council meeting will be on Thursday, 13th January at 7.30 pm.

The Chairman thanked all those present for their attendance and the meeting closed at 21.00 hours.
