

## **Minutes of Meeting held on 13th May, 2004 in the Community Hall at 7.30 p.m.**

Present : Alistair McCowan; Ishbel Ferguson; Juliet Mellor; Murdo Finlayson;  
Councillor Ewen Mackinnon  
Apologies were received from Janet Mackay and George Graham

### **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

These were approved as a true record, proposed Juliet Mellor, seconded Murdo Finlayson.

### **Treasurer's Report**

A report provided by the Treasurer confirms the balance on our account as £973.77.

### **Applecross Estate Trust – Woodlands**

The Chairman reported that he had spoken to Bob Wilson who was unable to be present tonight. He has had to take time off recently due to a family bereavement, and his studies and preparation of costings are delayed but continuing. Richard Wills, Chairman of the Trust, has also been in touch to explain that we will not receive details of proposed action or proposals for woodlands management until after the next Trust meeting in July.

### **Out-of-Hours Medical Cover**

It was explained that the Chairman had received a letter from Malcolm Chisholm, Minister of Health, in response to our presentation to him, confirming that Dr. Cargill will continue to provide out-of-hours cover in Applecross which means that there will be no change at present in the way that out-of-hours services are provided in Applecross as a result of the new GMS contract. It was also emphasised that this means only that for the immediate future (and until Dr. Cargill retires or is otherwise not able to provide the service) a satisfactory solution has been found but also that much work remains to be done to ensure that we find a long term sustainable solution.

All present expressed satisfaction with the solution of the immediate problem but it was resolved that there should be an early meeting of the sub-committee to discuss the way forward.

### **Water Supply Problems**

It was reported that there are still problems with chlorine smells. We will continue our correspondence with Scottish Water on this issue.

### **Community Council Elections**

The Chairman reported that he had discussed the question of "timing of elections for each area" contained in the Guidance for Community Councils - November 2003 with the Area Manager's office for Ross and Cromarty. Although the document indicates

that Ross and Cromarty should be moving towards elections for all in 2004/5, arrangements are behind schedule and we are not expected to have an election this year. Further guidance will be issued to us in due course.

Our community council feels that we would like to retain the system of only half of our members standing down at each election.

### **Any Other Competent Business**

- a. Toscaig Pier Improvements : Ewen Mackinnon provided a drawing showing the area of land owned by Highland Council at Toscaig Pier. The man dealing with the matter is Jim Yuill who should be able to provide approval in writing to carrying out the proposed works – limited to providing safety handrails and some soft landscaping.
- b. Joint Committee Meeting at Kinlochewe 14th May : The Chairman reported having received a note from Lochcarron Community Council stating that the meeting has been cancelled due to lack of support. The meeting expressed disappointment especially as it has been noted from Gairloch, Shieldaig, Torridon and our minutes that it was proposed to attend. It was also noted that when we host the joint meeting, we prepare the agenda (incorporating any items suggested by others).

We will write to Lochcarron expressing our disappointment and hope that the meeting will be re-convened in the autumn.

- c. Lochcarron Toilets : The Chairman reported that he had received an apology for the state of Lochcarron toilets as reported and an assurance that their condition was being monitored. It was stated that the problem has been that contractors from the hall site have been using them – surprising as the complaints we received were about the state of the ladies' toilets.
- d. Planning : One planning application has been noted – house and studio/sculpture workshop at Toscaig for Mr. and Mrs. G. Barton.
- e. Signs near Post Office : It was noted that the main road signs at the bottom of the hill near to the Post Office have been re-arranged to give room for the fixing of additional local signs e.g. Heritage Centre and Potting Shed Cafe, so as to tidy up the area. Interested parties will be encouraged to take advantage. These additional signs should be arranged through Highland Council (Jim Yuill).
- f. Re-surfacing Shore Street : Ewen Mackinnon reported that the re-surfacing of Shore Street which we had expected to take place this summer/autumn will not now be done in 2004. It is hoped that the work can be re-programmed for early next year.
- g. Sheep Droppings at School : A letter received from a resident who has children at the school was read out. It complains in strong terms about the concentration of sheep droppings immediately adjacent to the school and the dangers this poses to health, particularly the recognised danger posed by e-coli 0157 to vulnerable people like the elderly and young children.

Possible solutions were discussed including legal remedies but it was decided first to approach the local grazings committee to discuss the problem.

- h. Noticeboard : The Chairman reported that a request for a grant for a new (replacement) noticeboard has been refused by Wester Ross Alliance. It was noted that we have already approved payment from our own resources. A new board has been designed and a quote received and it is hoped the work can commence within the next few weeks. It was recognised that the present board is in a very poor state.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, 10th June at 7.30 pm in the community hall. The Chairman thanked those present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.0 p.m.

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