

Minutes of Meeting held on 8th July, 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
4 Members of the Public
Apologies were received from Councillor Ewen Mackinnon

Minutes of Previous Meeting

These were approved as a true record, proposed by George Graham, seconded Juliet Mellor.

Treasurer's Report

The balance on our account is £1,902.89, grant of £927.21 having been received.

Applecross Estate Woodlands - Update

The Chairman reported on the up-to-date position which is that the proposal to involve the Historical Society as reported in the minutes of the last meeting has been abandoned. Instead, a new company limited by guarantee has been formed with initial directors Alistair McCowan and Catriona McCowan representing the community and two directors representing the Trust. This is initially to enable a feasibility study to be commissioned. The feasibility study will involve a detailed look at the community and an assessment of possible benefits which might come from a community forestry grant. Bob Wilson has stated that there will be a drop-in workshop with the feasibility study consultants in Applecross to give the community and the Community Council an opportunity to put forward their views and suggestions.

The feasibility study report is programmed for completion in mid August.

It was unanimously agreed that the Community Council is happy to proceed on this basis for the feasibility study but their position on further involvement in Applecross woodlands and community benefits associated with it is reserved until the results of the feasibility study and further proposals become known.

Out-of-Hours Medical Cover

It was reported that as a result of our representation, out-of-hours cover is continuing as before. NHS 24 is in operation and not all reports about it are favourable. **The Community Council would like to be made aware of any problems experienced.**

The sub-committee is now preparing a mini report to be used to make our case for a long term solution and hopefully to find a formula which will encourage young doctors to take up positions in rural practices such as Applecross.

Wester Ross Local Plan – Final Consultation Report

At the drop-in meeting in Applecross on 24th June, the community was well represented. The general opinion was that it was felt that, under the Local Plan, housing development was being driven on to the arable (crofting) land in the various villages. It was resolved that we would seek a further meeting between representatives of the Community Council and the planning team before the deadline for objections/comments (16th July).

Water Supply Problems

The Chairman reported that Scottish Water had acknowledged receipt of the sample of debris in our water and that it had been sent to the laboratory for analysis but no further report has yet been received. Chlorine smells are again being reported.

BT Problems

It was reported that a letter of acknowledgement has been received from Sir Christopher Bland's office stating that a reply dealing with the points raised would be sent as soon as possible.

Any Other Competent Business

- a. Footpath lights : Continuing problems with over-bright lights at Craite Barn footpath and non-functioning lights at Camusterrach Place have been discussed with Councillors Ewen Mackinnon and Margaret Paterson and we await contact from Highland Council lighting engineer. The non-functioning lights at Camusterrach Place have also been reported to Douglas Miles.
- b. Sheep Droppings at School : The Chairman reported that contact has not yet been made with the local grazings committee.
- c. Verges between Shore Street and Milton : It was felt that the verges are now so overgrown that it is difficult for pedestrians to get out of the way of vehicles. As there seems to be an increasing number of pedestrians, many of them elderly, it was decided that we would have the western (sea side) verge between Shore Street and Milton strimmed at our expense.
- d. Vehicle Parking adjacent to Applecross Inn : It was noted that vehicles are often parked untidily and sometimes on both sides of the road and there is now a caravan close to the inn. The main concern is safety as children, in particular, but sometimes adults, appear unexpectedly from behind parked vehicles. It was resolved that we should write to Mrs. Fish in the first place asking for her co-operation in regulating parking and to prohibit parking against the front of the hotel.
- e. Affordable housing : Questions were asked about whether further affordable housing was planned. It was confirmed that no plans exist at the moment but it was unanimously agreed that we should formally ask the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust to carry out a needs survey for us.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on 12th August, 2004 in the community hall at 7.30 pm.

The Chairman thanked all those present for their attendance and the meeting closed at 20.40 hours.

