

Minutes of meeting for Applecross Community Council (unapproved)

held on 8th November 2005 in the Community Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Murdo Finlayson, Ishbel Ferguson, Ruairdh Cameron, Jonathan Hedges, Annie MacDonald, Gerry McPartlin,

Councillor Ewen MacKinnon, Robin Phillips

Eight members of the public

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The following changes were proposed to the minutes of 11th October:

www.applecrosscommunity.org.uk: the Community Council would like to state that while they fund the costs of hosting the site, the site was created and is maintained at no cost by John McKeown.

House sites: Dudley Barnes asked for and received the support of the community council in his wanting to find a house site.

Planning application in Toscaig: noted.

Treasurer's Report

Receipts: interest-£1.70

Payments: secretaries honorarium-£250

Balance: £1818.27

Matters arising from previous minutes

Rubbish at Toscaig: a skip has arrived and the rubbish is to be removed shortly. The owner of the rubbish wished to state he was "embarrassed and upset" by the incident.

Sheep in the Hall Playground: a quote for a fence along the car park side of the playground is to be obtained.

Recycling and composting: the green glass container has been emptied.

Public Toilets: there is no possibility of further facilities at this time.

Changes to out of hours nursing service: Liz Pritchard is organising a symposium for the agencies that this will impact on. A member of the community council is to attend.

Subsidised bus service: a proposed service is being tendered for and funding sought. This would be twice weekly from Lochcarron/Inverness return, with a request service for Applecross and Shieldaig.

There is no known threat to the Post Bus service at this time.

Noted: the Community Minibus can be booked through **the Hall Committee.**

Thanks to retired council members: a tea is to be organised at the Community Hall to thank retired council members on Saturday 19th November at 3.00pm.

Agenda Items

Results of housing needs survey: Robin Phillips from Highland Small Communities Housing Trust circulated a summary of the survey. From this he considered that three initial Rural Home Ownership Grant (RHOG) houses might be built, which may in turn, free up current affordable, rented housing. Any further need could then be assessed.

The potential house plots on the Applecross Estate were discussed. Seven sites are under investigation, three possibly for affordable housing plots.

Robin Phillips is to suggest to the Estate that these plots could come under the RHOG scheme.

He also stated the importance of people seeking housing being on both the Council and Albyn housing lists. Councillor MacKinnon stated that there has been no new council housing built in the last ten years and there

are no plans for any in the future. Any future affordable housing would be through a housing association.

The need of accommodation for staff of the Applecross Inn and the Venture Trust was discussed, and the possibility of the Community Council forming a sub-committee that might be a central point for providing information about housing options in the area.

Cleaning of Clachan Church: when immediate repairs are completed a 'cleaning day' is to be organised.

Village name signs: some of the signs are in poor condition, and these are to be identified and replaced.

It was stated by Councillor MacKinnon that road signs at the bottom of the hill by the Post Office were also intended to accommodate signs of local businesses in order to reduce overcrowding in this area. The signs need to be professionally made and approved by the Council.

Any other business

Public Toilets: there has been no interest in the winter cleaning job for the toilets.

Councillor MacKinnon agreed to fund the winter opening of the toilets through his discretionary budget. The Community Council would like to record its appreciation for this.

Next meeting: Tues 13th December 7.30pm Applecross Community Hall

Agenda points to the Secretary by Mon 5th December