

## **Minutes of Meeting held on 10th February, 2005 at 7.30 p.m. in the Community Hall.**

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

Bob Wilson (Scottish Woodlands); Morris Mulhearn (Wallace Stone & Partners)

1 member of the public

Apology for absence was received from Councillor Ewen Mackinnon.

### **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

George Graham asked for an addition to the item on the proposed new pier in Applecross Bay to include its length at 125 metres with 50 metres access road. This was agreed and the minutes, with the addition, accepted as a true record, proposed Juliet Mellor, seconded Murdo Finlayson.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The balance on the account stands at £1,923.09. The only transaction in the month was £135.47 for toilet maintenance.

### **Applecross Estate Woodlands**

The Chairman pointed out that the draft report from Brian Burns Associates for the feasibility study had been issued to all members and invited Bob to give an update on the woodlands situation.

Bob agreed that the draft report contains a full list of options based on community feedback but no final conclusions. Conclusions will be added to the final version of the study report.

The main work ongoing is tree surgery and general tidying up and making safe of footpaths and vulnerable areas.

Bob also stated that if there is a demand locally, small amounts of sawn hardwood could be made available to the public.

Rebecca Carr is looking into the question of using timber in the form of chips for heating purposes and has been in touch with possible large users like Venture Trust and the Community Hall. It was agreed that the lady will be put in touch with us to discuss all options, including domestic heating.

It is hoped that more information will be available for report to our March meeting with, inter alia, altered costings to take account of having to deal with substantial amounts of fallen timber.

Morris Mulhearn tabled an alternative design for the proposed pier in Applecross Bay based on a floating pier structure which would be removed when the timber removal

exercise was complete (or substantially complete), leaving a car park and possible visitor centre/toilet block. The old jetty at the post office would also be refurbished. It was felt that this was a better solution than the first proposal but that it was necessary to consult the public on it. Juliet Mellor will deal with the matter, posting the drawings on notice boards and asking for community feedback.

Juliet also introduced a possible alternative involving a pier to the south of Milton village with timber access via Torgarve on a temporary road and asked that its feasibility be considered.

Copies of the feasibility report referred to are available with each community councillor, and the public are encouraged to make contact and read this document.

The Chairman thanked Bob and Morris who withdrew. Bob will attend our next meeting.

### **Affordable Housing**

It was reported that Juliet Mellor and Alistair McCowan had attended the Joint Meeting in Shieldaig with Robert Gordons University to consider the Local Lettings Initiative. It was satisfying to note that, in general, community councils from Shieldaig, Torridon and Applecross had the same attitude to the Local Lettings Initiative and the need to safeguard local communities while making affordable housing available.

### **Wester Ross Local Plan**

An update was given by Murdo Finlayson. He had given evidence to the enquiry and met with the Reporter in Applecross to view the relevant sites. The Reporter will now prepare his report setting out his findings and recommendations – expected in six months.

Wester Ross Local Plan Newsletter issue 6 – February, 2005 was circulated to all members.

### **Revised Post Office Hours**

The Chairman reported feedback from Dudley Barnes who has reached formal agreement with Post Office Ltd. and is in the process of giving the appropriate notice of changed hours to the public. The new hours are scheduled to come into use at the beginning of March.

### **Lighting adjacent to Craite Barn**

The Chairman reported that Highland Council confirmed that all bollard and other lights have been put back in operation.

### **Sheep Droppings at School**

It was reported that Highland Council have confirmed that the matter of an outside water supply at the school is now receiving attention.

A letter in very strong terms from John Mellor was read by the Chairman. His basic conclusion is that the only way to avoid danger from e-coli 0157 in sheep droppings to children is to exclude sheep from all public places where children have a right to be. It was noted that the letter was copied to various authorities including Minister for Health & Community Care, Environmental Health Officer, Highlands & Islands Regional MSPs and Professor Pennington.

### **Shore Street Speed Limit**

It was reported that we have written to Highland Council formally requesting a reduction of the speed limit in Shore Street from 30 mph to 20 mph.

### **Any Other Competent Business**

- a. Police Support Unit : The Chairman reported that Inspector Andy Brown had been in touch to draw attention to the newly formed Police Support Unit for Skye, Lochalsh and the Lochcarron sub-area. It consists of a dedicated team of two officers in a marked police car who work throughout the Skye, Lochalsh and Lochcarron area (including Applecross). Inspector Brown said that his aim is to ensure that areas such as ours continue to enjoy low levels of crime, reduce drink-driving and other driving offences, and be attractive to both locals and visitors. He asks for any feedback we may have.
- b. Coastal Erosion : We were asked to note that serious erosion has taken place at various points along the coastline. Particular attention should be paid to dangerous erosion such as adjacent to the road from post office to the white gate, just to the south of Shore Street and in the vicinity of the hotel (car park and garden). The Chairman stated that he had met with Geoff Walker, Highland Council Roads Department, who was arranging urgent attention to dangerous erosion affecting roadways.

It is not known who is actually responsible for maintaining the coastline generally but we will address enquiries in the first place to Highland Council.

- c. New Notice Board : It is noted that the new notice board being provided by Sean Kilbride is nearing completion. The Community Council is very grateful to Mr. Kilbride for this substantial benefit to the community, and the Treasurer was asked to reimburse the cost of materials urgently. (The new notice board has subsequently been erected and Mr. Kilbride is to be congratulated on a first class job).

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 10th March, 2005 in the Community Hall at 7.30 p.m.

The Chairman thanked all those present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 22.10 hours.

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