

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on 14th April, 2005 in the Community Hall at 7.30 p.m.

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

2 Members of the public

Apologies : Janet Mackay; Ewen Mackinnon; Inspector Andy Brown

Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

Chairman's Report

The Chairman read his report which was circulated to all members. It was suggested that an item be added to confirm that we have applied formally to have the speed limit at Shore Street/Milton reduced from 30 mph to 20 mph. This has been done and a copy of the report is attached.

Treasurer's Report

The Chairman tabled accounts for the year 1st April, 2004 to 31st March, 2005 supplied by the Treasurer. The accounts were formally accepted.

There were no other points and the Annual General Meeting was closed.

An Ordinary Meeting of the Community Council followed.

Applecross Estate Woodlands

A detailed report is still awaited (including Brian Burns' report of which we have seen a draft).

Housing - Craite Barn Site

It was resolved that we should write to Albyn Housing to enquire when the planting of trees to replace those removed during site preparation would take place.

It was noted that residents have formed an association to deal with, inter alia, site maintenance.

Housing Needs Questionnaire

It was resolved that we should now ask Highland Small Communities Housing Trust to issue the questionnaire which we considered some months ago – to be sent to all adults in the community.

Sites for Self Build

It was noted that the trustees (Estate) have offered to make four house sites available.

Sites for Industrial Development

It was noted that negotiations are ongoing between one party and Culduie Grazing Committee for a site for industrial purposes. It was also considered useful to find out who owns the Lochcarron industrial site and how it is administered.

Bird Hide

It was suggested that the bird hide at Milton Loch could usefully be provided with posters/wall charts to identify the various birds likely to frequent the area, together with a telescope or binoculars suitably restrained. It was confirmed that the bird hide is owned by the Trust.

Community Elections 2005

We are due to have an election in 2005 (in the month of July). Unusually this time, three councillors are due to retire and two others must retire because they have been co-opted. Highland Council proposals to have all community council elections on the same day and all community councillors serving for four years have not yet been implemented, so we have the option of continuing with the present system of elections (for half the number of councillors every two years). A final decision has to be made at the next Community Council meeting.

Any Other Competent Business

- a. Local Lettings Initiative : It was agreed to accept the Local Lettings Initiative with the priorities (b) and (c) in the reverse order to the present system. We can review the LLI again in three years' time.
- b. Car park accident : It appears that responsibility for the accident involving a wheelchair at the public car park has not yet been settled. Further information is being sought by solicitors for the claimant but it was noted that both parties agree that the accident took place at the junction between the pavement and the car park – not at the ramp adjacent to the toilets.
- c. Caravan on car park : It was resolved that we should take up with Highland Council the matter of a caravan which is now parked (permanently) in the car park close to the public toilets. This seems to be in contravention of regulations and could have safety implications.
- d. Drop in road between main road/hotel car park and road to estate office : The unsatisfactory arrangements in this area, which involve different levels and which have been the subject of patching over some time, was raised. It was

considered that in the interests of safety and traffic management, the stones which delineate boundaries could usefully be re-arranged. It was agreed that Murdo Finlayson will discuss this with the Trust.

- e. Re-surfacing – Shore Street : It was noted that there have been no moves to re-surface Shore Street despite promises (from Highland Council) to have the work carried out. We will again ask when this work will be done.
- f. Dogs : The matter of dogs worrying sheep and deer was discussed. There have been recent incidents of sheep being killed and a stag being driven on to the sand and out to sea by dogs which are clearly out of control. The Community Council considers this a serious issue. We live in a rural area where sheep (and lambs) and deer are common. Generally, locals keep their dogs under control and have them properly trained and it is essential that visitors have theirs always under control. Traditionally shepherds and landowners have shot dogs seen worrying animals. It was resolved that we would circulate notices to holiday home owners, and place notices on the notice boards requiring that dogs be under control at all times. Murdo Finlayson will prepare the notices.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked members and the public for their attendance and closed the meeting at 21.00 hours.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, 12th May at 7.30 pm in the Community Hall.
