

## **Minutes of Meeting held on 12th May, 2005 in the Community Hall at 7.30 p.m.**

Present : Alistair McCowan; Janet Mackay; George Graham; Murdo Finlayson;  
Councillor Ewen Mackinnon

Bob Wilson (Scottish Woodlands); 5 members of the public

Apologies received from Ishbel Ferguson and Juliet Mellor.

### **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

These were accepted as a true record, proposed Murdo Finlayson, seconded George Graham.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The balance on our account is £1,285.51. Payments were £30 hall rental.

### **Applecross Estate Woodlands**

The Chairman invited Bob Wilson to give an update on the woodlands situation.

Bob explained that, despite the re-assessments which had to be made following the storm damage to woodlands in January, final proposals should be forthcoming soon. In the meantime, it was important to discuss an alternative proposal for the jetty to be used for removing timber by sea. The initial idea of having a floating pontoon and floating access platforms has been found to have serious disadvantages in that it would not be suitable for use in winds above force 6 or 7. An alternative proposal has been produced involving a permanent concrete sloping structure which would allow operation of a front-loading barge at most tides. This could also be used for launching pleasure craft in the future and would have associated car parking and possibly enhanced toilet facilities including re-arrangement of the present car park. It was suggested that the car park should have a tarmac surface and be designed to the required standards for take-over by Highland Council. It is hoped that the major road alterations originally envisaged can be simplified by agreement with Highland Council Roads Department. Preliminary drawings of the new arrangements are available with the Community Council.

It was accepted that Bob will incorporate the new permanent structure arrangements in final proposals. The public will have an opportunity to comment at planning application stage.

Restoration of the old stone pier will still be incorporated.

Bob will report on progress, possibly at our June meeting.

The Chairman thanked Bob for his presentation and he withdrew.

## **Sheep Droppings at School**

It was generally agreed that the problem is not as severe this year as it has been in the past. It was also noted that an external water tap has been fitted at the school.

## **Housing Needs Survey**

Highland Small Communities Housing Trust has been requested to issue the proposed questionnaire to all households but this has not yet been done.

## **Prawn Fishing Concerns**

The Chairman reported that a petition signed by all Applecross creel fishermen and submitted to the Fisheries Minister, Scottish Executive; the Inshore Fisheries Review Group; Members of Parliament, Highland Council and other interested bodies has been copied to the Community Council. This refers to the apparent collapse of the prawn fishery and asks for urgent action to limit over-fishing and control this fishing generally.

Alasdair Macleod, a local prawn fisherman, was present and addressed the meeting and requested that the Community Council write a letter of support.

It was agreed that the Community Council will support local fishermen and request that measures be put in place to conserve this vital (and possibly last) major fishing.

## **Community Council Elections 2005**

It was resolved that an election will take place in July. It was also resolved that three councillors will resign (by rotation), and two co-opted councillors have to resign as required by the constitution. All five may offer themselves for re-election (and will require to be sponsored and seconded in the usual way). This leaves one community councillor who will continue for another two years.

The Secretary will put in place all necessary procedures.

## **Any Other Competent Business**

- a. Poor road (driving) discipline : It was noted that visiting motorists seem to have poor driving discipline and do not use passing places correctly. However, it was agreed that apart from drawing this to the attention of the police, there is not much we can do.
- b. Chaos on Shore Street : Attention was drawn to the obstruction and general untidiness associated with refurbishment of a house near to the inn and it was suggested that at times, the situation was quite dangerous. It was accepted that refurbishment appears now to be complete and hopefully the situation will improve.
- c. Re-surfacing Shore Street : Councillor Mackinnon confirmed that re-surfacing of Shore Street is not on the current programme of roadworks. This is disappointing, as we were promised re-surfacing this summer and it was hoped that some traffic management could then be introduced.

- d. 20 mph Speed Restriction : Attention was drawn to a press release which indicates that a programme is in place to provide funding to enable all local authorities across Scotland to establish 20 mph speed limit schemes adjacent to schools in their areas. The publicity indicates that, inter alia, research shows that 20 mph speed limits are an effective vehicle for reducing the number of accidents and severity of casualties on our roads.
- e. Music and Seafood Festival : Attention was drawn to the forthcoming annual Seafood and Music Festival. It is hoped that the public will be supportive and tolerant again this year so that the festival, which enjoys a good reputation, will achieve its usual success.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, 9th June, 2005 in the Community Hall at 7.30 pm.

The Chairman thanked all those present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 21.40 hours.

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