

Minutes (unapproved) of meeting of the Applecross Community Council and AGM

held on 11th April 2006 in the Community Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Murdo Finlayson, Ishbel Ferguson, Ruairidh Cameron, Jonathan Hedges, Gerry McPartlin

Four members of the public

Steve MacDonald and Alasdair Lawton — Ross-shire Roads Cycle Club

Apologies: Councillor Ewen MacKinnon and Tim Williams AGM

Minutes (if Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th March were approved. Proposed by Gerry McPartlin and seconded by Ruairidh Cameron.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman read his report, which was circulated to all members. A copy of the report is attached.

Treasurer's Report

Balance: £ 1437.83

The Chairman tabled accounts for the financial year 1st April 2005 to 31st March 2006 as supplied by the Treasurer. The accounts had been independently audited and were formally accepted; proposed by Jonathan Hedges and seconded by Ishbel Ferguson.

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

An Ordinary Meeting of the Community Council followed.

Agenda

Proposed closure of Bealach for Cycle Race: Steve MacDonald a representative of the Ross-shire Roads Cycle Club explained a proposal for a cycle race. It would be a circular route starting and finishing in Kinlochewe, via Achnasheen/ Lochcarron/ Applecross/ Shieldaig.

This would involve approximately 500 riders and the club wanted to apply for a closure of the Bealach between 9.30am and 11.30am on the 22nd July. It was felt that if successful the race could become a yearly event.

Concerns were raised that the proposed date coincided with the Applecross Games, a major fundraising event for the community. It was feared that the closure would interfere with the success of the event, and consequently all members of the Community Council were agreed that the proposed date was not acceptable.

Concern was also noted that the Applecross community had not been consulted sooner. Steve MacDonald explained that the Club had only recently realised the clash with the Games. He undertook to see if the date could be changed.

There was support for the race from those at the meeting if the date could be changed, recognising the potential economic opportunities for the community.

Applecross Woodlands and Inner Deer Fence: At a recent meeting with the Applecross Estate Trust it was explained that the proposed plan for the Applecross Woodlands was now on hold due to problems with the funding and that the proposed pier was also looking increasingly unlikely. There was the possibility of resubmitting the grant application in 2007 and it is now planned to apply for a different grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. This process would take at least two years.

Concern was also raised on the visual impact caused by the recent felling of the Smiddy Wood.

The question of a South Coast deer fence had been discussed with the Estate and it was recognised that this was a considerable undertaking. Possible contributors to the cost of the fence might include: the Estate, the Crofters Commission, Crofting Townships and individual homeowners.

The role that the Community Council could play in this project was questioned.

Other points raised in the meeting regarding the fence:

- Concerns from members of the public about the damage from deer. It was proposed that any complaints could be forwarded to the Estate through the Community Council.
- What was the legal status of the deer and who was responsible for them?
- Would an environmental initiative controlling deer to improve croft land attract funding?

Clachan Church: The cleaning day had been successful and had been attended by twelve volunteers. The Community Council would like to express their appreciation to all those who took part.

The proposed renovation was discussed including ways of generating more income from donations. A suggestion was made to provide more information on the history of the church and make it possible for people to make postal donations, which could gift aided, if deposited in a specific account for the restoration. Murdo Finlayson to contact Richard Wills regarding this.

Future Provision of Library Service: The Community Council has been informed that the library in Applecross will close 'as soon as possible' in this financial year.

It will be replaced by the mobile service from Gairloch, which will visit every three weeks. Adults can borrow a nominal amount of 12 books and children 6, however this could be amended on request. The proposal is for the van to make three stops in the Applecross area late morning/early afternoon. The driver will be Graham Powell. Highland Council are requesting suggestions for where the library may stop.

When discussing this it was generally felt that this was a retrograde step with regards to library access but may provide a greater selection of books. Concern was noted the lack of evening opening might restrict people who are working accessing the service.

The proposed stops are: the car park below the Post Office, the Hall and outside the school. Please contact the secretary with any comments regarding this.

Minutes: The mandatory (for the continued funding of the Community Council) and discretionary recipients of Community Council minutes were identified.

It was proposed that any 'action points' were identified in the minutes along with the name of the person assigned with the task.

Recycling: The Community Council has been assured that the paper skip will be arriving soon.

Any other business

Planning application: Toscaig- noted.

Transfer of Inspector Andy Brown: Inspector Brown has been transferred from Portree to Police Headquarters, Inverness into the post of Staff Development Officer. The Community Council expressed appreciation of his work here and wished him every success with his new posting. The Community Council does not as yet know who will replace him at Portree.

Age and Experience Consultation: The Scottish Executive is conducting a wide-ranging consultation over the implications of an ageing population, which they define as the over fifties. They wish to consult on such matters as the role played by this group of Citizens in the workforce, what services will be required in the future with anticipated changes in demographics and what effect this will have on communities. Copies of the survey were distributed at the meeting and Community Councillors will be seeking input from all sections of the community before the Community Council formulates a response.

Barbed wire around play area: The Hall Committee has asked for the removal of the barbed wire from around the play area. This was felt to be appropriate and was to be carried out by Jonathan Hedges.

Funding for Community Play areas and Skateboard Parks: The Highland Council is providing a one-off funding opportunity to help local