

Minutes (unapproved) of Applecross Community Council Meeting

Held on 9th May, 2006, at 7.30pm, in the Community Hall

Present: Murdo Finlayson, Ishbel Ferguson, Ruairidh Cameron, Tim Williams, Gerry McPartlin, four members of the public, Councillor Ewen MacKinnon and Robbie Bain, Area Development Manager, Highland Council

Apologies: Jonathan Hedges

Treasurer's Report

The current balance for the Community Council account is £1,665-65.

A grant of £407 had been received from Councillor MacKinnon's discretionary fund towards the cost of the winter opening of the public toilet.

It was agreed that the the majority of the funds in the filling station account should be moved to an interest bearing account (**ACTION MF**).

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting (11th April)

These were approved – proposed by Ruaridh Cameron and seconded by Gerry McPartlin.

Matters Arising /

Following their attendance at the Community Council meeting in April, the organisers of the proposed race had been in touch by e-mail to say that, if it was acceptable, they hoped that Saturday 29 July would be the date of the race. It was agreed that this date would be satisfactory.

Alfie Edwards, Chairman of the Applecross Games Committee, was disappointed that he had not been advised of this proposed date. He also pointed out that, once the date was confirmed, it would be important to consider the implications of the temporary closure of the Bealach road for all users, particularly emergency vehicles and holiday home tenants, who change over on Saturdays.

It was agreed that it would be appropriate to "advertise" the closure of the

Bealach by putting a leaflet into each holiday home, as well as by public notices.

Councillor MacKinnon explained that the initial choice of 22 July had been due to confusion on his part regarding the date of the Applecross Games and had not been due to any lack of consideration on the part of the race organisers. He undertook to contact them to confirm the revised date of the race and also to discuss the implications of the road closure **(ACTION EMack)**.

Deer Fence & Clachan Church

It was understood that both the funding of a possible deer fence and the renovation of Clachan Church were being discussed at a concurrent meeting of the Applecross Trustees. It was therefore agreed to hold over further consideration of these matters until the next Community Council meeting.

Library

No date has yet been set for the proposed change to a mobile library service.

Recycling

Two units for recycling paper were now in place in the car park by the Filling Station as well as the pre existing units for bottles and tins.

Barbed wire around hall play area

This has now been removed.

Funding for community play areas and skateboard parks

As yet, the secretary has not received any local response.

Retirement gift

The community have an opportunity to contribute to a retirement gift for Lorna Lumsden through the collecting box in the Post Office. In recognition of her long standing support for the Community Council it was agreed to make a donation of £75 from Community Council funds **(ACTION MF)**.

Litter on the shore

It was agreed to tackle the litter on the various beach areas, starting with Applecross bay, on the afternoon of Saturday, 17 June.

Councillor MacKinnon offered to arrange for gloves and disposal bags to be made available from the Highland Council.

Telegraph poles and BT cables

It was understood that BT planned to take down redundant telegraph poles and that individual poles would be made available for use by interested members of the community. It was agreed to contact BT regarding their plans.

(ACTION JH).

It was noted that new BT cable had not been buried and that this seemed to be consistent with previous practice in Applecross. This is not only unsightly, but causes problems with grass cutting along road verges and could be a hazard to walkers. It was agreed to review previous correspondence regarding this issue **(ACTION MF)** and also to check on Highland Council policy **(ACTION EMack)**.

Industrial units

It was suggested that any persons who may be interested in using an Industrial Unit should make their interest known to the Community Council.

Robbie Bain advised that, if there is local interest, it should be pursued with the Local Enterprise Company. He also commented that Industrial Units tended to be expensive for small businesses.

Any other business

Role of Area Development Officer

Robbie Bain explained that the Area Development Officer had previously been mainly concerned with economic issues but that the emphasis had now changed to community development issues.

He was aware that a common cause of complaint was the difficulty that members of the public experience in making contact with the Highland Council. He hoped to improve this interface.

He mentioned that he found it very helpful to be able to read the minutes of our meetings in An Carrannach. It was agreed that he should be added to the e-mail circulation list for our minutes **(ACTION JH)**.

Sheep worrying by dogs

Duncan Murchison advised the meeting that two sheep had been killed at Ardban. It was agreed that the public should be reminded of the serious consequences of failing to keep dogs under control and that notices on this matter should be displayed at the Post Office, the Community Hall, in the Applecross Inn and at the Camp Site **(ACTION JH)**.

Robbie Bain suggested that Phil Waite, the Highland Council Access Officer for Ross & Cromarty, should be contacted regarding warning signs he could make available for display by public paths. This was particularly important for the path to Ardban and Coilegillie **(ACTION JH)**.

It was also suggested that we contact Scottish Natural Heritage for copies of their brochure on responsible access **(ACTION JH)**.

Notice board at post office

The lock needs replaced and action taken to prevent condensation on the glass **(ACTION MF)**.

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Torridon interpretation

A paper concerning the "Loch Torridom Marine Environment Interpretation", prepared by James Carter and Ross Associates, had been forwarded to the Community Council by Kenny Ross of Scottish Natural Heritage. It includes two suggestions for an interpretative feature at Sand car park (close to the Mesolithic site). It was agreed that "Option 1" was preferred and SNH will be advised accordingly **(ACTION MF)**.

Community council secretary

Jonathan Hedges has indicated that he wishes to step down as Secretary once he has completed a year in office. It was agreed that we should seek to appoint a "Minutes Secretary" and that the position should be advertised on the notice board at the post office (**ACTION MF**).

It was agreed to consider co-opting somebody on to the Community Council, to handle the other aspects of the Secretary's function.

Sheep fouling

John Mellor had sent the Community Council a copy of his e-mail, of 24 April, to the Transport Environmental and Community Services department of the Highland Council. He continues to be greatly concerned by sheep fouling around the entrance to the school and the risk that children might consequently be infected with e-coli 0157.

The Community Council understand this concern and feel that it is essential that the relevant experts in Public Health give clear guidance regarding the extent of this risk and any actions they may consider necessary.

Road at Ard Dubh

There is a considerable pothole in the road at Ard-dhubh, thought to have been caused by the laying of a BT cable last year. This will be taken up with BT (**ACTION EMack**).

WROOH

Current contracts for out of hours (OOH) medical care, expire at the end of June. New arrangements must, therefore, be in place by 1 July. However, the negotiations are complex and progress has been slow.

The various Community Council representatives have had two further meetings with members of the Mid-Highland Community Health Partnership (CHP), on 17 and 27 April. The latter meeting involved some two dozen persons including representatives of Nursing, Midwifery, the Ambulance Service and Social Work.

It seems likely that, for OOH care, Wester Ross will be divided into three zones with a care provider, who may not be a doctor, in each zone who will be able to respond to an urgent call, anywhere in the zone, within one hour. These persons may cross zone "boundaries" where necessary to help in a

neighbouring zone. They will also be supported by personnel based in Dingwall and Broadford.

Gill McVicar, General Manager, Mid-Highland CHP, explained that, if it proved impossible to reach agreement with Wester Ross GP's, she had plans in place whereby cover could be provided, through an agency, by additional doctors who would be resident in Wester Ross and who would, in addition to their OOH work, be available for up to fifteen hours of daytime work within General Practices. She thought that, with support from Dingwall and Broadford, Wester Ross could be covered by two doctors and one nurse practitioner.

Highland 2007 budget

Andy Collis mentioned the "Highland 2007" budget whereby £13 million was available for community projects. It was understood that the projects should be "cultural" in nature. Anybody interested in applying would need to act quickly.

Next meeting' Tues 13th June, 7.30pm, Applecross Community