

# Applecross Community Council

## Unapproved Minutes of Meeting Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 2006.

**Present :** Murdo Finlayson      Ishbel Ferguson      Ruaridh Cameron  
Jonathan Hedges  
  
Councillor Ewen McKinnon.  
  
Mark Stewart. 1 member of  
  
the public.

### [1] APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE :

Tim Williams.  
Gerry McPartlin

### [2] MINUTES OF 14<sup>TH</sup> NOV MEETING & MATTERS ARISING :

Adopted as an accurate record.

**Proposed :** Jonathan Hedges  
**Seconded :** Ruaridh Cameron.

#### (a). **Secretary's Allowance & Laptop Purchase.**

The secretary will now purchase a laptop computer.

#### (b). **Local Water System.**

A letter from Scottish Water was received on 5<sup>th</sup> Dec, the import of which is that there is limited system capacity which could impinge on future development proposals, however, upgrading of the system can be considered, if necessary.

Councillor McKinnon noted that the potential problem is in the water works and not in the supply, and, that quality and capacity constraints are addressed by the QMS3 programme which operates on an area priority basis. Communities outwith the priority areas may have a problem.

#### (c). **Public Housing.**

Tenants have voted to retain housing stock with Highland Council.

#### (d). **Highland Small Communities Housing Trust.**

**POINT OF CLARIFICATION :** The problem in uptake of affordable development plots reported at the Trust AGM is a general problem and not one specific to Applecross.

**[3] TREASURER'S REPORT :**

Statements have not yet been received from the bank.

**[4] REVIEW OF RURAL SPEED LIMITS :**

Details of the directive referred to in the previous minute have not yet been received by Members at H.C.

**ACTION :** Councillor McKinnon will ascertain background and process details and report back to the meeting.

**[5] ROAD SIGNS AT SMITHY CORNER AND AT WHITE GATE :**

**ACTION :** Councillor McKinnon observed that the road down from the Smithy Corner may not be in a satisfactory condition and will arrange to have it surveyed.

**Smithy Corner :** white lines delimiting the corner will be painted and a larger road sign (X2) detailing the corner will replace the existing sign.

**White Gate :** The chevron will be moved to a more visible location and white lining painted.

**[6] OUT OF HOURS MEDICAL COVER :**

The formal report has not yet been delivered.

**(a) Observations :**

Overall impression is of a necessity to cut costs and this is being looked at in an exercise of objectively classifying, in order of priority, means of providing out of hours cover.

Eight options have been brought forward by the working group and these have been ranked in terms of effectiveness and cost. The prominent option is for 3 out-of-hours practitioners, not necessarily GP's, to be located in each of the communities, with a supervising salaried doctor at a designated location.

Further work on the model is to be undertaken.

It was noted that Wester Ross accommodates 1% of the population but consumes 10% of the budget, and that the effort is to produce safe and sustainable cover.

**[7] WINTER OPENING OF TOILETS :**

**ACTION :** Councillor McKinnon will disburse the same contribution as last year from his discretionary budget.  
Chair will speak to Michelle about graffiti.

**[8] NATIONAL COASTAL-MARINE PARK CONSULTATION DOCUMENT:**

**(a). Report .**

Responses to the document are required to be lodged by 10<sup>th</sup> January 2007.

The consultation process is focused on the **location** of the park and not on the creation of one.

The document appears to be consulting on an entity which is not clearly defined; issues of the extent of the park, both at sea and inland, park management and planning authority, are uncertain.

It would appear that SNH have a vested interest in the project.

**(b). Observations .** It appears that the Park Authority would have primary authority and that Local Authority Planning would be subservient to it.

It was suggested that the local fishing industry is in chaos with fears of a fishing stock crash due to too many boats and too much fishing gear in the water. Consequently there may be some benefits to having some structure in place in early course, and this proposal appears as solely what is on offer.

Regulation of trawling activities was called for. It was alleged that only 1 kilo of a 9 kilo catch is commercially viable. The remaining 8 kilos is wasted.

Concern was expressed at the creation of an unelected quango and at the consequent associated lack of democratic process.

Associated job creation is suggested as being essentially bureaucratic.

Questions over the appropriateness of a Marine Park were raised in terms of the lack of any case proffered for protecting some unique aspect of marine life.

The compatibility relationship between submarine activity and the ethos of a marine park was questioned.

**[9] CLACHAN CHURCH :**

**Windows.** The Chair noted that the windows have now been blocked and braced and that the visual appearance is not unsightly.

The meeting commended Duncan McCowan for his work and also expressed its congratulations on his recently conferred Master

Craftsman award.

(b). **Ballot.**

The results are :

Windows retained as existing :	5
Windows replaced as original :	49
Windows replaced with coloured glass :	21
Windows replace as clear glass :	28

**ACTION :** The windows will be replaced as original.

(a). **Subcommittee.** The remit : prioritise work, fundraising, liaison with Applecross Trust.

**ACTION :** A notice will be posted in the Post Office inviting nominees with a box for collecting nominations.

**[10] INNER DEER FENCE :**

Richard Wills has been in contact with the Community Council making his apologies for the lack of progress and emphasising that the Trust is very much in favour of the project and wish it to proceed.

**[11] GREEN AROUND THE OLD ESTATE OFFICE :**

**ACTION :** The sycamore plantation is to be thinned out and the green itself regularly cut during the summer months and protected by chain-link fencing.

Some trees will be planted and a foot-path created between the Inn and Post Office at the low level area of the road.

**[10] A.O.C.B :**

(a). **Graffiti on Beallach.**

Further graffiti has been observed.

**ACTION :** Geoff Watts to be informed.

(g). **Abandoned Car at Fearnbeg SandPit.**

**ACTION :** Councillor McKinnon will ascertain due process for its removal.

**Planning Applications.**

An application has been lodged by Mr Cumberland for the alteration and extension to a swelling and for the creation of an outbuilding.

**ACTION :** Noted.

**[11] DATE OF NEXT MEETING :**

**TO BE ARRANGED.**