

Applecross Community Council

Unapproved Minutes of Meeting Tuesday 8th August 2006.

Present : Murdo Finlayson Ishbel Ferguson Ruairdh Cameron
Jonathan Hedges Gerry McPartlin Tim Williams

Councillor Ewen McKinnon.

Mark Stewart.

1 member of the public.

[1] MINUTES OF 11TH JULY MEETING :

Adopted as an accurate record.

Proposed : Ishbel Ferguson.

Seconded : Gerry McPartin.

[2] MATTERS ARISING :

(a). Heritage Lottery Fund Grant Application.

A communication from Applecross Trust has been received indicating the success of a Landscape Planning Grant application to Heritage Lottery Fund which will provide for a local character assessment, strategy and proposals for the Applecross Peninsula to be conducted over a period of twelve months.

A steering group is to be formed with a first meeting mooted for Friday 25th August at 10:30am to which the Chair has been invited.

ACTION : The meeting agreed that the Chair accept the membership invitation and subsequently report back to the Council.

(b). Clachan Church Restoration Project.

Mr Richard Wills has advised that a most generous contribution of £30,000 has been mooted by Garfield Weston Foundation towards the project restoration cost.

The Council hoped that this may allow the church to be rendered wind and watertight for the winter.

(c). Recycling Waste Materials.

Contact has been made with Highland Council indicating the need for an additional green glass bin and also requesting the bin repository for paper be emptied.

(d). British Telecom Cabling.

The Secretary has written to BT concerning surface cables.
No response to date.

It was noted that at the viewpoint before Cuaig some 20 meters of unconnected cable, redundant to operational requirements, has been coiled up and removed in the interests of safety and tidiness by Gerry McPartlin.

(e). Public Toilets.

Councillor MacKinnon indicated that the facility lighting would be extended as soon as possible and that although the issue was regarded by HC as urgent staffing shortages may create a delay.

The meeting thanked Councillor MacKinnon for using his discretionary budget in this matter.

(f). Scottish Water : Sewage Discharge at Milton.

A communication from Scottish Water has been received noting that a faulty valve at the pumping station has been responsible for a back-up in the system which caused a discharge affecting a resident's garden.

A replacement part has been installed and the situation will be monitored by Scottish Water.

It was suggested that local people are not convinced that the problem has been solved. The meeting has a suspicion that the system has an inherent basic design fault.

ACTION: Since Alister McCowan was closely involved with the system installation and may have more detailed information and advice that he should be contacted by Gerry McPartlin.

[3] TREASURER'S REPORT :

The account balance is : £2574.23.

Transactions :

CREDIT	£1.35	interest accrued.
CREDIT	£981.89	net balance from gross annual grant of £1045.27 after insurance deduction.
DEBIT	£23.44	web hosting fee.

The Community Council Ledger was passed to Jonathan together with Treasury archive material.

[4] CYCLE EVENT :

Alister Lawton, from the race committee, is to meet Gerry McPartlin on Thursday 17th August to discuss local impact and gain feedback.

The meeting expressed the view of a popular successful event with approximately 420 entrants and welcomed the proposal for a similar event mooted for 2007.

Local feedback suggested that the event's immediate effect on local business was largely neutral although the meeting recognised and welcomed the wider indirect benefits to tourism bestowed by the event. An increase in cyclists in Applecross has already been apparent.

It was noted that the local refuse system was not adequate to the requirements of the feeding station, which provided water and home baking, and that perhaps the organisers could undertake to remove their own refuse following any future event.

Additional suggestions for an improved event focused on much wider publicity including 'An Carrannach', 'Press and Journal' and radio, clearer emphasis on road closure in the holiday home notice, professional road signs advising of road closure, that the local road closure start position be sited above the camp site access road, and, that painted messages on the Bealach road be discouraged.

Removal of painted signs on the Bealach bends is outstanding.

A cheque in the sum of £100 has been received from the event organisers for the provision of baking at the feeding station. The balance of this sum, after the deduction of costs, will go to Applecross Youth Club. The Council expressed its appreciation to Kay Harman for her hard work in doing all the baking and to Ruairdh and Kate Cameron for helping to man the feeding station.

Much sadness was expressed at the accident on the Bealach and the Council extends its profound sympathy to the injured cyclist.

ACTION : Gerry McPartin to provide Highland Council with a formal report on the local impact of the event.

[5] APPLECROSS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY :

A communication from Chris Tait has been received outlining the Society's hope of extending the dig recently carried out by the Time Team who uncovered evidence of a broch at Home Farm (which was mentioned in the 'Statistical Account' of 1793).

Subject to funding, the dig is scheduled for September 2006 and it is planned to include local enthusiasts in the field work.

The dig objective is to uncover, leave exposed and consolidated, the broch's foundations.

A request has been made for a contribution to the project's estimated £7,500 cost.

ACTION : The Community Council will sponsor the week's tool hire cost of £45 + VAT.

[6] REFUSE BINS :

The meeting was provided with photographs illustrating the overflowing bins at the car park.

It was noted that the problem occurs during the summer months.

Councillor McKinnon noted that although H.C. policy is not to extend the provision of bins he would seek to obtain a large bin for the car park. The proviso being that the additional capacity should not be used for the collection of contaminated and prohibited materials.

Further problems are in evidence at the head of the bay where bins are overturned by the wind.

ACTION : The Community Council will discuss with the Estate the possibility of fencing the bins at the head of the bay and in such a way as to reduce visual impact.

[7] ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS :

The meeting discussed ways in which the visual appearance of Applecross might be improved upon in terms of general clearing up, repair and landscaping initiatives.

Given Applecross's location it was suggested that there is an extraordinary burden in the removal of unwanted items and an associated cost.

The Council agreed to develop a strategy to address the problem.

Councillor MacKinnon advised that Highland Council, free of charge, will collect unwanted items by arrangement, also, that this facility may not continue to be provided without cost.

Fridge and Freezer disposal is covered under a separate provision.

[CONTACT NO FOR SERVICE : Lochcarron Service Point 01520 722 241]

ACTION : Tim Williams will identify shore-line and beach sites which may benefit from a clearing up exercise and subsequently draw up and publicise a rota identifying sites and dates for volunteers to appear and lend a hand. Tim will also arrange the provision of gloves, refuse bags and a repository for collected rubbish.

Tim will obtain information about the collection and cost of removing abandoned vehicles.

Tim will attempt to form a voluntary group of people willing to undertake painting work and general repairs. Tim Williams may be reached on 01520 744 396.

Gerry McPartin will investigate the possibility of funding from sources such as the Heritage Lottery Funding Protect Plan.

Murdo Finlayson will discuss with the Estate the reinstatement of the wall in the vicinity of the hotel and Shore Street, and, the possibility of reinstating the Estate Office Green.

[8] ACCESS TO HEAD OF THE BAY :

The 'West Highland Free Press' has invited comment on camping in the area.

Ongoing concern has been expressed about vehicular access to the head of the bay and the consequential erosion of the Hammers. In addition, damage caused by camp fires and general debris left by campers and camper vans has become an issue.

The meeting was concerned about the difficulty and undesirability of implementing any prohibition and wished to ensure that a welcoming positive posture is portrayed, suggesting that this might be achieved through low profile interpretative signs and possibly planting for access restrictions.

There is a lack of clarity between the wild camping provision made by the Access Code and whether the bay picnic area fits the profile of a 'wild camping site'.

It was noted that there is a formal legal Article in place which allows the Estate control of the bay area in the interests of conservation.

ACTION : The Community Council will in the first instance seek clarification of the legal force of Article 4 Direction.

[9] A.O.C.B :

(a). Wester Ross Local Plan.

The Plan has now been formally adopted. Highland Council has been formally commended on its compilation.

(b). Planning Application For Dwelling House.

The application for a dwelling house at Camusterrach submitted by Ruairdh Cameron is noted. (Ruairdh Cameron declared an interest in the application and left the meeting while the application was considered).

(c). Ministerial Announcement : Review of Countryside Speed Limits.

Agenda item for next Council Meeting.

(d). Sheep Worrying.

ACTION : sign and leaflets as mooted from previous meeting to be followed up by Murdo Finlayson.

[10] DATE OF NEXT MEETING :

Tuesday 12th September 2006.

APPENDIX : Following the meeting the Chair was advised that Jamie Seele is arranging the uplift and removal of abandoned cars. Jamie may be contacted on 01520 744 296.