

# Applecross Community Council

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

**Present :** Murdo Finlayson Ishbel Ferguson Ruaridh Cameron  
Gerry McPartlin Tim Williams

Mark Stewart.

1 member of the public.

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### [1] APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE :

Jonathan Hedges.  
Councillor Ewen McKinnon.

### [2] MINUTES OF 8<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST MEETING :

Adopted as an accurate record.

**Proposed :** Gerry McPartlin.

**Seconded :** Ishbel Ferguson.

### [3] TOSCAIG PIER :

#### (a). Presentation of Highland Council Proposals by Tony Usher.

Mr Usher informed the meeting that following enquiries from a local fisherman regarding landing use of Toscaig Pier that grant funding focused on aquaculture could be accessed to make the pier fit for purpose, while any development would not detract from existing provision and use.

The interested fisherman also indicated the need for the construction of a shed to accommodate equipment and two potential sites had been suggested. Mr Usher advised that any construction would be subject to the usual planning process.

#### (b). Survey Report.

Mr Usher displayed photographs detailing the poor condition of some structural members and suggested that two possible options might be to either rebuild the existing wooden structure or to remove it and replace it with a landing dock accessed by a ladder. It was suggested that the cost of rebuilding would be prohibitive and that the second option was preferable. The implications of these options were discussed in terms of tide levels and current access and it was suggested that existing arrangements would not be compromised.

Mr Usher suggested that the order of repair funds may be in the region of £30,000 - £40,000 and that this level of investment would future proof the pier's usage for some 25 years.

**(c). Discussion.**

The meeting endorsed Mr Usher's proposals and took the view that an end in the near future to the current decay of the pier would be most welcome.

It was noted that public access to fishing from the pier would be unaffected and that any unclaimed marine debris would likely be removed during the period of repair work.

The Chair thanked Mr Usher for attending the meeting and for his research efforts.

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

Deferred till next Council Meeting.

**[5] EROSION OF RIVER BANK :**

It was noted that since the time of the gale of early 2005 the course of the Applecross River, below the high water mark, has altered, with the consequence that a significant amount of sand is now being eroded from the head of the bay.

It was agreed that it would be desirable for remedial action to be considered.

**ACTION** : The Council will approach Archie MacLellan to discuss the possibility of the Estate taking up remedial work.

**[6] REVIEW OF SPEED LIMITS :**

Deferred till next Council Meeting.

**ACTION** : Community Council will meantime consider what may be relevant issues and appropriate limits in preparation for next meeting.

**[7] ROAD SIGNAGE AT SMITHY CORNER AND WHITE GATE :**

Several members of the public have raised the need for improved signage directing traffic at Smithy Corner and the White Gate, following repeated observations of vehicles taking a mistaken route.

**ACTION** : The Community Council will further discuss this issue and consider whether white lining illustrating the road into Applecross would be preferable to additional road signs.

**[8] WESTER ROSS ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATION :**

An estimated cost has been obtained for the rebuilding of the drystone wall between the Post Office and the Inn.

Informal contact with WRA suggests that the incorporation of both a youth element and a biodiversity element would be looked on favourably in assessing any funding application.

Funding provision has a bar of 75% of costs to a ceiling of £2000. Any consequent shortfall in the project cost could possibly be addressed by the Community Council or through an approach to Applecross Estate.

**ACTION** : The application will be submitted with the hope of the project work being undertaken during March 2007. An approach to schools will be made to solicit the involvement of young people.

## **[9] LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME MEETING :**

The Chair reported back from the first meeting of the group by first detailing its composition and noting that project ideas from the local community are sought.

All projects must have a cultural, heritage or landscaping basis to be acceptable to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Estate considers that a suitable approach might be for the compilation of project ideas, followed by the production of a refined list.

A Local Project Coordinator will likely be appointed on a full-time basis for a period of around one year.

A job description will become available, and the post advertised, when a requirements specification has been agreed.

**ACTION** : The Community Council will monitor developments and will, if required, provide a facilitating role in organising meetings and gathering information on local views and opinions.

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

### **(a). Photocopier.**

The Community Council's desktop photocopier, which is now surplus to requirements, will be donated to the Applecross Historical Society.

**ACTION** Jonathan to pass equipment to Alistair McCowan

### **(b). Library dates.**

The next library dates are 27<sup>th</sup> September and the 18<sup>th</sup> October.

**ACTION** : a public information notice will be produced by the Council.

### **(c). Sheep Worrying.**

Leaflets have been provided to the Council.

**ACTION** : leaflets will be distributed by the Councillors to holiday cottages, businesses and B&B's.

### **(d). Planning.**

It was noted that Planning consent has been sought for the demolition and replacement of Katie's Cottage in Camusteel.

**(e). Bins.**

Photographs were provided illustrating a possible construction for housing rubbish bins and preventing access to them by sea gulls.

**(f). Small Communities Housing Trust AGM.**

The meeting is scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2006.

**ACTION** : Murdo Finlayson will attend.

**(g). Access to Head of Applecross Bay.**

It was noted that some concern had been expressed about aspects of a recent newspaper article on camping in Applecross which might be viewed as negative by visitors.

The council would wish to reiterate its welcoming posture to visitors to Applecross but also recognises legitimate public concern in areas of vehicular access, and, in public health and safety, arising from some forms of usage.

The Council's position was strenuously endorsed by the member of the public present at the meeting.

The Council would also wish to make reference to its stated position on this issue in the minute of 8<sup>th</sup> August 2006.

**(h). Volunteer Ambulance Drivers.**

It was noted that additional drivers are sought.

Drivers are paid an allowance.

**(i). Minutes.**

An apology was offered that the minute of 8<sup>th</sup> August was not submitted to An Carannach in time for publication.

**ACTION** : Reorganisation of the timing for the issue of minutes and for subsequent responses were agreed.

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

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2006.**