

Applecross Community Council

Draft unapproved Minutes of Meeting Tuesday 10th June 2008.

Present : Murdo Finlayson Ishbel Ferguson Ruaridh Cameron
Ewen Gillies Gerry McPartlin Alison Macleod

Councillor: Audrey Sinclair

Sue Grocock (Minutes Secretary)

6 members of the public.

These minutes can be found at www.applecrosscommunity.org.uk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No Absences.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of meeting held on 13th May adopted as an accurate record :

Proposed : Gerry McPartlin

Seconded : Ishbel Ferguson.

- **Minutes secretary:** Sue Grocock has been appointed as the Minutes Secretary
- **Opening of Inverbain Hydro scheme:** Murdo attended the opening on the 22nd May
- **Telephone kiosk closures:** Highland Council has posted a response to closures on its website. A draft objection to the closure of the Toscaig box has been raised. It is very important as there is little or no mobile signal around Applecross and it is a useful backup to the box at the post office. The Post Office phone box was out of order this week for 5 days as the coin box was full.
 - **Action:** – Murdo to speak to Robbie Bain about the importance of the Toscaig phone box to walkers and as a backup to the one at the Post Office.
 - **Action:** – Audrey to chase up response on how many calls were made from the Post Office box as there may be a case for a second box.
- **Cycle challenge:**
 - Gerry has now discussed his letter to Bryan Stout, Chief Engineer, Highland Council, regarding a possible leaflet and notices for road users. The Roads Department does not have a suitable notice or leaflet.
 - **Action:** – On Audrey's suggestion Gerry has agreed to discuss cycling safety with Hugh Logan, of the Highland Council.

- Gerry has contacted the organisers of the cycling events who are agreeable to increasing the safety information on their website.
 - Gerry will await information from Alistair Brown on his efforts with the advisors on road safety in Edinburgh
 - Gerry stated that a motor cycle escort was provided for the Post Lady but, unfortunately, there was a misunderstanding about the rendezvous.
 - The secretary of the Applecross school parent council board acknowledged they had received the money for the flapjacks provided on the day.
- **Road barriers:** Gerry had also discussed this with Bryan Stout who seemed in favour of initiating a survey with a view to a possible rolling programme of barrier installation. No date was given for the survey.
 - **Minutes secretary:** Alison stated that she would like to resume minute taking when the filling station is removed from the agenda as in her view the only objection the other councillors had to her taking the minutes was that of 'conflict of interest'. Murdo indicated that the Community Council had, after discussion voted to employ a Minutes Secretary at the previous Community Council meeting and any change to that position would require another vote.

3. TREASURERS REPORT

The account balance as at 28/05/08 is:
 General account £2758
 Filling station account £307

4. CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

- The next ward meeting will be held in Contin on 16th June at 19:30
- Following on from the Core paths plan the Draft Access Strategy has been published. It is available at www.highland.gov.uk/leisureandtourism/what-to-see/countrysideaccess/accessstrategy.htm
- Hamish Munro from Clyde Marine has inquired as to whether anyone would be interested in re-instating a ferry from Toscaig to Kyle. He has a vessel that can carry 29 passengers available for charter. If anyone would like to contact Hamish then please contact Alison Macleod.
- Fiona Downey a Youth Development Officer is giving support & advice to a number of people interested in re-forming Torridon Youth club if anyone in Applecross would like to contact Fiona then please call Alison Macleod.
- Liz Pritchard sent a letter saying that there is no money left in the fund that has been used for the expenses of the Out of Hours group. It has been agreed that the Community Council will cover Gerry's costs for attending future meetings.

- A letter was received about rural grants that are available for Landowners for releasing land for building however the closing date is close and the Applecross Estate plans are not far advanced enough to take this up.
- Email from Liz Pritchard giving details of an NHS Meeting on delivering Primary Care Service. This will be held on the 26th June at 7pm, venue not known. Gerry and Alison hope to attend.
- Alison has received a letter about an Archaeological Fortnight organised by the Highland Council. Alison will pass on to the Archaeological Society.

5. FILLING STATION

A number of Community Councillors had discussed the ongoing issue of the filling station with Douglas Graham. His suggested approach would be to go to the Highland Council and discuss the transfer of the Assets i.e. the pumps and tanks to a temporary company prior to the feasibility study being run by the Applecross Community Company(ACC). This would remove the burden of liability from the Community Councillors as soon as possible and ensure a smooth transition of the temporary company to the ACC if it was required to be.

In Mr Graham's opinion it would be easy to set up the temporary company and transfer the pumps and tanks to it. It would however be necessary to ask for Highland Council's agreement to the transfer of the land on which the filling station sits to the temporary company and Audrey indicated that this may take some time to get. Mr Graham also advised that it would not be difficult to transfer the property from the temporary company to the ACC.

A vote was taken and all 6 councillors were in favour of setting up a temporary company. All 6 will be directors of the temporary company. It was agreed that the Community Council will cover all costs all costs that arise from the setting up of the temporary company and all costs that become due e.g. insurance.

Action – Alison to discuss whether the ACC would like to nominate a member of the ACC Board to become a director of the temporary company.

Action – Murdo to contact Douglas Graham about the plans for the temporary company and request Robbie Bain to give information on tenancy of the land to Douglas Graham.

6. WARD FORUMS

The main purpose of these forums is so that representatives of all of the community councils in the ward can get together to discuss issues that affect them. At the last meeting bus services in and around Lochcarron were reviewed.

Audrey outlined that they are trying to get to grips with the size of the ward and the number of forums and that they are trying to hold more meetings in Achnasheen as a more central venue. If anyone has any

subjects that may of general interest to the ward as a whole then please pass on suggestions to Audrey Sinclair.

The council are formalising the application process for the discretionary budget. This will now be on a 3 monthly basis instead of ad-hoc as it has been.

Action: - Gerry to apply for some money to fund the winter toilet cleaning so as to hopefully ensure that funds are available for 01/10.

Murdo & Alison intend to attend the next forum in Contin.

7. AOCB

- **White lines on the Bealach.** **Action:** - Audrey to check when these are scheduled to be done.
- **Dog Fouling on Shore Street.** A request was made to get signs and bins for Shore Street. **Action:** - Audrey to check who can do this in the Highland Council and also who would be responsible for emptying the bins. Murdo to be the contact in Applecross, Judy Fish from the Applecross Inn requested to be consulted on the positioning of the bins.
- **Heritage Lottery Fund application.** Archie Maclellan & Brian Burns held a meeting on 27/05 to update the steering group and focus group on the progress of the application so far.
- **Driving on single track roads.** The dangerous practice of cars pulling into passing places on the wrong side of the road was discussed. It was agreed that this is a problem. **Action:** - Ruairaidh to talk with Lesley Blisset with a view to producing a sign informing people that this is not good practice.
- **Play equipment for small children at the Play Park.** There is little equipment for small children as there was not enough money to get some. There is however space and if there was money available then more could be installed. Highland Council has previously confirmed that funding will not be available in this financial year, and probably not in the next. Alison had asked if Highland Council would pay installation costs if money was raised in the community to pay for more equipment, but has received no response.
Action: - Alison to chase this up
- **Parking for visitors going to Colliegillie & Ardbain.** There are a lot of cars parking in passing places and on grass verges in the area around the start of the path. It was suggested that people could be directed to park on the Caman nearby. **Action:** - Ruairaidh to speak to the grazing clerk of Culduie about using the Caman as a parking area. A sign would have to be organised.
- **Sign to Toscaig.** There is no sign to Toscaig at the junction of the road with Ard-Dubh. **Action:** - Murdo to speak to Brian Stout of the Highland Council about providing a sign to Toscaig.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that there would not be a meeting in July unless required and therefore the next scheduled meeting is the **12th August**.