

Applecross Community Council

These minutes and past minutes of Community Council meetings are available at www.applecrosscommunity.org.uk

Minutes of meeting 10th November 2009 (unapproved)

Present:

Ali Macleod, Ali Goldthorpe, Ewen Gillies, Tim Williams, Ali Brown

In Attendance

Councillor Audrey Sinclair

Apologies

Alison Macleod

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

- CC map- Shieldaig CC agrees that Fearnmore is in the Applecross area, not Shieldaig.
- Toilets- Anna is happy to carry on cleaning the toilets for the winter.
- Gritting- after a conversation with Robbie Bain it appears that the situation regarding gritting on the hill will not be changed this winter.
- Audrey pointed out the date of the previous minutes was a day out
- Archie MacLennan called to ensure the minute of the next ALPS meeting was October and not November 19th. Both will be corrected

Minutes proposed Tim seconded Ali B.

2. Financial Report

. The opening balance	£3206.25
Interest.	.29
Chair travel expenses and sec expenses	£ 163.30
The closing balance	£3043.24

3. Correspondence

- Gerry Mcpartlin emailed last month regarding water pipe cut up and left in Alt nan Orp presumably by the Scottish Water workers. All M had gone up to take a look, found nothing and presumed they had been cleared up. Gerry was wondering why this had not been addressed
- Kenny MacBeath's planning
- E-planning – electronic consultation process
- Draft local transport strategy
- New forms for striking off Apx Trading (as old ones now out of date). These were handed to Ewen for him and Gerry to complete re the striking off of Applecross Trading.
- This year's Highland Council Tourism seminar will take place on Wednesday 25th November in the Council Chamber, Glenurquhart Rd, Inverness starting at 10:00 am. A light lunch and networking opportunity will be available at the close of the seminar. Ali Goldthorpe said she would attend.
- The next Ward Forum for Ward 6, Wester Ross, Strathpeffer & Lochalsh will take place in Contin Hall on Saturday 14th November at 11.00 am. The meeting will address the Council's winter road gritting programme and hope to have both the Police and Transerv

present to cover wider road safety issues and trunk road issues respectively. The meeting will finish by 13.30. Ali M will attend.

4. Broadband Provision

Alison M had a conversation with Liz Pritchard about Broadband problems in Applecross and Liz promised to send information she had recently learned from Dave Thompson MSP. We want as many people as possible to write in about this (and some have done so already). Alison M will write in on behalf of the CC. A good Broadband service is very important factor in ensuring a viable future for this community. It affects tourism, employment, health, education, access to banking services etc.

Dave Thompson MSP has advised that John Swinney MSP, The Finance Secretary told him that "he had concluded talks with British Telecom and he was able to report that he will provide £3m of new funding for BT to upgrade about 50 telecom exchanges for broadband around rural areas in Scotland"

Dave continued, "I would urge anyone with concerns about the upgrade of a specific exchange to add their weight to my campaign by writing to this department which will take the decision. Letters to encourage investment in a particular exchange or area should be sent to

The Enabling Technologies Team,
The Scottish Government,
5 Atlantic Key,
150, Broomielaw,
Glasgow
G2 8LU "

5. O4O Programme (SW Ross Community Odd Job Scheme)

Alison has been contracted by the UHI one day a week until the end of 2010, to implement a handyperson scheme in SW Ross.

Kate Stephen, from the Centre for Rural Health attended a CC meeting here in October 2008 to discuss the scheme, which at that time was supposed to be co-ordinated by Duncan Fraser as part of his job for the Applecross Trust, and was limited to Applecross. It is now intended to cover a wider area and may be run through the Howard Doris Centre, although Alison is actively exploring other options, including whether it would be possible to improve the existing handyperson system which is supposed to cover this area and is run by ILM. Their handyperson is employed to provide a service to a much larger area, and is based in Poolewe. This service is not well used by people in SW Ross, but it's not clear how many people know about it. There is also an understandable reluctance to call for someone to come from Poolewe to carry out a job that will only take a few minutes.

It is hoped that we will recruit volunteers (who will themselves probably be older people aged 55+) who will provide assistance to less able older people (and disabled people of any age) who are still managing in their own homes, but who could do with a bit of help with simple DIY jobs, heavier cleaning jobs etc. The aim is to help people to stay safely in their own homes.

Volunteers will be insured by the scheme, will receive travelling expenses and tool boxes will be supplied to each community. Volunteers will also be asked to go through the disclosure process as this is a legal requirement.

Alison is visiting all the relevant CCs to explain the proposed scheme, and asking for feedback from Community Councillors, potential users of the service and potential volunteers.

Anybody interested in finding out more or letting Alison know what they think, please contact her on 744 348 or call at the Schoolhouse.

5. Out of Hours Group

Liz Pritchard wrote to remind CCs that November 30th is the date by which the OOH group require their views on the information shared at the meeting in Achnasheen on September 17th, so that the current group can discuss the responses at a meeting in early December.

The CC suggests that Applecross does want to continue to be represented on this group, but would prefer it to be renamed to indicate that it is looking at a wider range of issues which affect Health Provision in this area. The preference in Applecross will always be to do all we can to retain the present service of 24 hour cover provided 7 days a week by our two GPs, but there are a lot of other issues the group could usefully be involved in, as well as making sure OOH cover is as good as possible just in case.

Post Meeting Note: It was decided that we would offer to support the group financially if that proved necessary, on the condition that other areas benefiting also provided support.

6. ALPS

Alison M and Ali M went to the final Alps meeting before the submission of the application. It is intended to set up a management board, which will consist of one representative of the following:

Archie Maclennan (chair)

Applecross Trust trustee

Archaeological Society

Heritage Society

Community Council

Community Company

Crofters

Walk and Traditional Crafts Group

Bealach

Shieldaig Community Council

There will be up to 2 others co-opted on for 12 months at a time. Some of these groups will also be actively involved in the management of their own projects.

The Board is expected to play an active part in the strategic management and implementation of the ALPS initiative and to oversee the operation of the initiative, procurement policy, risk management policy (review of the 35 page risk register at each board meeting), and environmental policy. Below this board it is suggested there will be a consultative forum which members of groups and public can join. This will advise the management board and can make suggestions but will not have decision making powers.

The meeting lasted 3 hours and environment policy, child protection, equal opportunities policy risk policy, risk register and procurement policies were all discussed.

There is to be a monitoring and evaluation programme which will probably be contracted out to a specialist, although ultimately the responsibility of the LPS officer and the Trust Administrator.

There is little detail available regarding the woodland projects.

There were concerns raised regarding the number of volunteers that would be needed both for the Board and to manage and participate in projects and in the training programmes. Also the inexperience of many on the Management Board was pointed out, and training for them

was suggested. It is most unusual for an LPS management board to be made up almost entirely of volunteers, they normally include representatives of agencies who are partners in projects and who are paid for their work as part of the board.
The application was submitted on Nov 2nd. The result is expected at the end of March.

7. Renewable Energy

Alison and Ali M went through to a meeting in Dingwall on Nov 5th arranged by CES, on behalf of the Community Company.

The purpose of the meet was to get the SSE together with community groups in the West Highlands and Islands who are interested in setting up renewable energy projects in their areas.

Assynt, Ullapool, Coigach, Inverasdale, Applecross, Glenelg and Sleat were represented. SSE, HIE, CES and Robbie Bain, ward manager made up the rest of the meeting. They were given a presentation by Alec Morrison, SSE, which gave an overall picture of the grid in the north of Scotland. The main obstacle is that the grid has been built for distribution and it is not set up for localised small-scale generation connection.

The Beaulay/Denny line upgrade is critical for any future exporting of renewable energy from the north. For 2013 there are well established plans to lay an underground DC line from the Western isles to Beaulay, this freeing up 20MW of power on the original line coming through Skye.

The SSE has to ensure that capacity is made available in an efficient and economic manner with environmental and future sustainability in mind.

Short term there is a policy of making do with what we have. Possibilities include upgrading the transformer at Shieldaig and re-enforcing the local line in Applecross, all costing lots of money of which the generator is liable to pay a percentage.

One thing that SSE is looking at is introducing non-firm agreements, which should take a bit of pressure of the developer. At present when the connection consent is applied for a firm date is given which the development must meet.

8.AOB

Shop and Filling Station

Dudley Barnes has decided to finish supplying bread, milk and papers at the end of this week and intends to sell of the rest of his stock next week. He will continue to sell fuel during this period. The Council strongly recommends people to continue to support the filling station and the Company intends to keep it running until the refurbishment takes place.

Post Meeting Note.

Regular customers are being consulted in order to decide the best times to open. A list of volunteers is being collated.

Date of Next meeting: 7.30pm, 8th December 2009

Meeting closed at 8.35pm