

## **Applecross Community Council**

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[www.applecrosscommunity.org.uk](http://www.applecrosscommunity.org.uk)

### **Minutes of Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> January 2009 (Unapproved)**

**Present:** Ruaridh Cameron, Ishbel Ferguson, Ewen Gillies, Alison Macleod, Gerry McPartlin

**Apologies:** Jean Urquhart

**In attendance:** Councillor Audrey Sinclair, Robbie Bain (Ward Manager), 14 members of the public

Audrey agreed to chair the meeting, following the resignation in December of Murdo Finlayson. She proposed that before going into the agenda it would be helpful to discuss the suggestion that all the remaining community councillors would resign, and elections would be held for all places on the council, to allow a fresh start. All agreed that that would be the best approach. Robbie suggested that it would be a good idea to amend the constitution before resigning. This would mean that the altered constitution would have to be publicly displayed for 14 days before the existing community council held a special general meeting to officially adopt it, before resigning and making election arrangements.

It was agreed that having made this decision there was no need to go ahead with items 1 and 2 on the agenda, the election of a new chair and the co-option of a new member. Audrey agreed to chair the rest of the meeting and also the special general meeting. The members of the Community Council considered the Constitution and agreed to a number of changes. This amended constitution will be displayed before the special meeting.

### **3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**

Alison asked for an amendment to the minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> November, which gave the impression that only she was concerned about the lack of information in the October minutes, when she had stated at the meeting that several members of the public had complained to her about it.

The minutes were approved; proposed by Ruaridh and seconded by Ishbel.

- Inspector MacLean has no objection to two extra "Allow Overtaking" signs being added on the Bealach. The matter has now referred to Iain Hay, who is considering it.
- The full amount needed to keep the toilets open over the winter has been received from the Highland Councillors' discretionary budget; in the past only 50% has been received. Robbie explained that policy had changed and it was now possible to award 100% if the application was for less than £1,000. A recent burst pipe in the toilets has been fixed.
- Although it was believed in November that the crash barriers on the Bealach would be installed in about two weeks, there is no sign of any work two months later. Audrey will pursue this with Iain Hay.
- Alison was in touch with Alasdair Lawton of Hands on Events, who organise the Cycle Challenges, asking why they had not been able to display safety advice more prominently on their website, which the Community Council had asked them to do twice. She also advised him that the Cycle Challenges appeared to be becoming increasingly unpopular with members of the community, and that it would be a good idea to start working more effectively with us. In his reply he explained some of the actions they

had taken in response to our requests and stated that they would be "happy to prominently display an appropriate notice from Applecross Community Council." Gerry felt that the organisers had always been co-operative and suggested that the community council should accept the invitation to make their own contribution to the event website. Ewen and Alison believed that it was the responsibility of the organisers to advise on safety, not the community council. Gerry explained that the kind of message he had in mind was not "advising on safety" but alerting cyclists to the general concerns of the Applecross community. It was agreed that Gerry would put together a notice. A member of the public suggested that Gerry should not be responsible for the notice. Gerry responded that he would be happy to discuss the composition of the notice with the member of the public and it was also agreed that it should be referred to the other councillors for their comments. Another member of the public suggested that the police should be invited to put a safety notice on the website too. Alison agreed to approach Inspector MacLean about this.

- Audrey explained that the suggestion that street lighting should go off in the early hours to save energy was not practical at the moment, as the cost of changing existing lights so they did this automatically would be prohibitive. Lights installed more recently are able to do this.

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

The balance in the General Account was £2,672 on 24<sup>th</sup> December.

£1,215 of this is the balance of an SNH grant to restore 'the Green'. Gerry has e-mailed Archie to remind him this money is still available. Alison asked what the terms of the grant were; was there a time limit by which it had to be spent, for example.

Expenditure: £90 hall rent, £50 to minutes secretary for two months work, £115 for toilet cleaning, £174.82 to Murdo for expenses.

Income: £700 from Highland Council for winter opening of toilets.

The Filling Station account has now been closed.

### **4. Correspondence**

- Next Ward Forum is on 9<sup>th</sup> February at Kinlochewe Hall at 1.30 for a 2.00 start. The subject for discussion will be waste management, and Colin Clark, Head of Waste Management will attend.
- The Wester Ross Alliance AGM will take place the same day, also at Kinlochewe at 5.30. Fiona Downie has been appointed as the new WRA manager, working 2 days a week. She has asked Community Councils to give her information on their communities (in particular on projects which may be eligible for LEADER funding), which will be used to create a development plan for Ward 6.
- Guidance from the planning department on houses in multiple occupation, and submission of observations on planning applications
- Invitation from the Dog Warden and the Education and Enforcement Officer to meet with them to discuss issues concerning litter, abandoned vehicles, stray dogs and dog fouling.
- The order to impose the 30mph speed limit in Camusterrach (with part time 20mph section at the school) was made in December.

Letter from Alistair Brown, on behalf of the organisers of the petition about safety issues surrounding the Cycle Challenges, asking the Community Council to put a written objection to the road closure for the next Cycle Challenge to Highland Council

## **5. Health Care Provision**

The management of the Mid Highland CHP has decided to advertise for a GP to work every second week, providing both in and out of hours cover. Dr Cargill will also work to this pattern. The advert will be in the British Medical Journal on 17<sup>th</sup> January, with interviews to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> March. The Health Care Association meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> December was very useful, because in negotiations it served to confirm the view of the community that the option suggested by NHS management including a nurse practitioner working 2 days a week was not suitable for Applecross. There is however some concern that it may be difficult to recruit a GP who is willing to provide Out of Hours cover for a full week, and so the NHS has agreed to a suggestion to advertise the post in outdoor magazines as it seems likely that the post will be most attractive to doctors who enjoy outdoor pursuits. John McKeown has put together a website which provides information on the area with sections on the job, outdoor activities and schooling. The address of this, which is to be included in all the job adverts, is <http://gp.applecross.info>. A press release about the community's proactive approach to recruiting a new GP will be issued to coincide with the advertisements to attract as much interest as possible.

Dr Cargill had given 7 months notice to the NHS, and expected present arrangements to stop on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. It is clear that the new GP will not be in place for some time after that date. NHS management has agreed that Drs Cargill and Barbour will work 2 weeks on, 2 weeks off to cover the gap in provision. Gerry welcomed the NHS decision which he hoped would set a template for GP provision in Applecross. **Post Meeting Note:** NHS management made a last minute decision not to include the web address in the adverts, just in the information pack which those who have decided they are interested can request.

**6. Change to the Constitution:** Covered at the start of the meeting

## **7. AOB**

**Former Chair:** Gerry suggested that the Community Council conveyed its thanks to Murdo Finlayson, who has served on the Community Council for a number of years, most of them as an office bearer.

**ALPS Development Officer:** Archie MacLellan invited a representative of the Community Council to be a member of the interview panel for this post. Gerry agreed to do this.

**Venture Trust:** The Venture Trust is hoping to hold an open day (possibly two days) at Hartfield, with the aim of letting the community know more about the work they are doing with young people, and to give local people a chance to take part in taster sessions in some of the activities they offer to young people on their courses. The date for this has not yet been set. They have recently received seven years funding for work with young people leaving care. The VT would like to form a closer relationship with the community and staff are interested in exploring ways of doing this with local people.

**Date of Next Meeting:** The next meeting, which will be a special general meeting to approve the new constitution, will be on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 7.30.