

Applecross Community Council

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Minutes of Meeting Tuesday 11th of May 2010

Present: Donald MacBeath, Ali Macleod, Alison Macleod, Janet MacDonald, Ewen Gillies, Ali Brown, Alison Kilbride and Councillor Audrey Sinclair

In attendance: 3 members of the public

Minutes proposed: Ali Brown Seconded Ewen Gillies

Matters Arising:

Road Signage: The sign for the 7.5 tonne ban is now in place at Tornapress. Audrey offered to chase up the "Children Playing" sign which had been asked for on the way into Applecross.

Clachan/Deer Fence: Ali M confirmed that these projects are still included in the ALPS. Match funding for the fence will come from CAGGS and the crofters in each affected township will have to apply for that, as the Trust is not eligible to do so.

Financial Report:

Opening Balance: £2957.95

Interest .27

Hire of the Hall 50.00

Closing Balance: £2908.22

Correspondence:

The Great Tour: A bike ride around the coast of Britain for 2 charities, Prostate cancer & The National Grocers benevolent fund, which will be visiting Applecross in August. Numbers involved are small and participants will be grouped according to fitness levels. Local people can apply to join in a stage. Ali M. will get in touch on behalf of the CC to offer our support.

Highland Library service: A group of retired Council librarians wrote about a draft proposal to close libraries in the area (Lochcarron is the nearest one under threat). It is suggested that the areas previously served by libraries in the community will then be covered by the mobile service. The mobile service is already on a three week time table and it was felt that further demand will stretch the service too far. The mobile service is very well appreciated in Applecross but we would like a more frequent, rather than a less frequent service. A mobile service is in no way a replacement for the likes of the library in Lochcarron, which is open quite a few hours a week, including evenings, and runs activities for children, reading groups etc.

This, and other proposed cuts in Highland Councils budget will be discussed at the next ward forum which will be in Lochcarron, on the evening of 21st of June.

Members of the public are welcome at ward forums to voice their opinions.

SNH Gairloch: An invitation to meet with SNH in Gairloch on 12th May.

Planning: Plans for the change of use of the coal shed into a retail establishment. Noted.

ALPS:

We are seeking legal advice on the ALPS partnership agreement to see if wording added to it does remove all risk of liability for those who sign it. It was agreed that if the agreement was found to be OK, Ali Macleod would join the ALPS management board on behalf of the Community Council. Proposed by Alison M, seconded by Janet.

Filling Station:

The new pumps are in place and connected to the fuel tanks and will be commissioned on Friday 12th May. Volunteers will continue to sell fuel from the kiosk for the next few weeks until the credit card reader is installed; the contractors haven't been given a date for its delivery yet, although it was ordered in January and was supposed to take six weeks.

Consultation on Community Care:

Alison M has been contracted by the Highland Community Care Forum to carry out a consultation in South West Ross on the joint Community Care Plan. This plan has been put together by NHS Highland and Highland Council Housing and Social Work departments, and sets out the approach to providing care and support to adults needing community care services over the next three years. The consultation is a chance for people to give their views. HCCF is particularly keen to speak to people in the following categories who do not normally get the

chance to express their views; older people, carers, people with learning disabilities, sensory impairment, mental health or substance abuse issues, ethnic minorities and the homeless. Homeless includes people who are in unsatisfactory accommodation such as caravans.

Anybody who wishes to be included in the consultation, please get in touch with Alison on 01520 744348. The consultation is done through a simple interview, either over the phone or in person. All information given is treated as confidential.

A.O.B:

Nurse: NHS Highland are to advertise for a new resident nurse to replace Linda.

Donation to Archaeology Society: The Archaeology Society had agreed to raise £4,000 towards the cost of this summer's digs, consolidation and interpretation of the Broch but has found this very difficult to find. The other 90% is being funded through ALPS. The Community Council agreed to donate £400.

West Coast Recycling (Highland): West Coast Recycling (the group which organised the plastic bottle collections) has applied for funding to employ a student over the summer to work on projects which will raise the profile of the group, and improve their communication with the public. If their application is successful they would like to ask the CC for a modest donation to help pay the expenses of the student.

A transfer station for sorting recyclates is to be built at Gairloch; once this is complete, blue wheelie bins will be introduced to South West Ross.

Cycle Challenge: A competitor in the May Bealach challenge got in touch with the Community Council to let us know that competitors had been told at the start of the event that the Bealach road was not closed because of a "last minute objection from the village of Applecross". He asked if the CC knew whether this was true. Enquiries to Highland Council revealed that the road had in fact not been closed because Hands on Events had not submitted an application for road closure.

As the CC had heard nothing from the organizers at all before the event (although Highland Council had asked them to work with the communities affected) Alison M had put up notices warning people that the road would be closed, so it was likely that it had been quieter than usual. However it was known that some cars and motorbikes had travelled over during the event, as they were entitled to do.