

**Applecross Community Council Meeting Minutes (unapproved)**  
**10<sup>th</sup> January 2012**

These and past minutes of the Community Council meetings are available at [www.applecrosscommunity.org.uk](http://www.applecrosscommunity.org.uk)

**Present:** Ali Brown, Carolyn Petersen, Ali Macleod, Alison Macleod, Janet MacDonald, Isabelle Kerjose, Ward Manager Robbie Bain.

1 member of the public.

**Apologies:** Councillor Audrey Sinclair

Ali opened the meeting by welcoming Robbie Bain and the new members, Isabelle and Carolyn and acknowledging the contributions of the two members who stood down, Alison KilBride and Donald Macbeth.

### **1. Matters Arising**

i) A member of the public has asked for clarification of the role of **special constable** and who the local ones are.

**Action.** Ali will get the info from Dave Abraham.

ii) Douglas Miles has sent the specifications for the **additions to the playground**. This was both restricted by the available space and the limited choice of equipment available from the one supplier arranged by Highland Council; and was approved by the parents.

### **2. Correspondence**

i) a letter from Charles Kennedy outlining the **new proposed constituency boundaries** revealed that the three MPs in the Highland Council area be reduced to two. He is campaigning to keep the three. If the proposed changes go ahead the dividing line would go through Applecross putting the north coast in with Caithness and Sutherland and the south part in with Skye and Lochaber. One of the difficulties in creating the new boundaries is that the rules stipulate a maximum geographical area and a minimum population for each area. The CC decided to support Charles Kennedy's campaign.

ii) a letter from Applecross Inn to **request recycle bins for plastic and cardboard**. Alison pointed out that this would be unlikely as Applecross should be getting its household blue recycle bins in April. Green bins and blue bins would be emptied on alternate weeks.

**Action.** Robbie will check on actual date. He said that they will not take glass but will take cardboard and as far as he is aware the recycling bins at the car park will remain.

While on this topic Alison suggested that a community in-vessel composter may be something to look into and which could be used by businesses and households in the area. This would take food waste.

**Action.** Alison will speak to Ann Barton from Shieldaig for advice.

iii) a letter from Chest , Heart and Stroke Scotland to **thank for the donation** (from Janice's retirement fund) . The other 2 charities expressed their thanks by email.

### 3. Stromeferry Bypass

Robbie reported that they are still working on options. Short term, ferries have many logistics to be worked out; stacking spaces for cars, user prioritises and how to police it etc. Long term plans are dependent on geologists report hopefully by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> to assess how much unstable rock there is and how working on foreground rock impacts the rock behind it. It seems that all options are very expensive. Previous costing for alternatives are being looked at. Ali Brown asked if the diversion signage could be improved

**Action.** Robbie will speak to the police about signage.

### 4. Local Development Officer Reports

**Carolyn:** who has her position back from Angus after 5 months maternity leave, reported

i) the **land lease agreement** is still being negotiated. The company hopes for a swift resolution.

ii) **grid connection** – the application has now been made to Scottish and Southern Energy. The outcome of this will be known by the beginning of March along with the costs to connect to the grid.

iii) the **hydrology testing** was completed with good results. More testing will have to be done in drier weather to create a balanced result.

iv) Campbell of Doune has been contracted to produce a civil engineering **design for the hydro scheme**. The drawings are planned to be completed before the end of March.

v) Blythswood **clothes recycling** bin has been a success with about half a ton collected so far.

vi) the Applecross Community Company **website** [www.applecrosscommunitycompany.org](http://www.applecrosscommunitycompany.org) is now live.

**Alison** reported

i) **Community Toilets.** LEADER funding application has to in by end January with the result known in March. Liz Whiteford, LEADER officer has said there's a lot of competition for the fund at this stage and the more match funding and proof of community support and involvement can be provided the better our chance. Alison has been talking to Sam Bridgewater about input from ALPS to the project.

ii) Alison has created a job description for the **Support Worker for the disabled and the Elderly** and referred it to Mervyn James of Highland Council.

### 5. ALPS

i) **Clachan** work going well, all ground works have been completed, heating in and most of the toilet work done. The bat licence has been approved which means that the affected areas can be worked on till May, namely the roof and windows.

ii) the **Smithy dykes contract**. One of the dyke building trainees will be awarded a small part of the contract under supervision of the master waller who trained them. If this probationary part works well then he has a good chance of being awarded a larger part of the contract. Another portion has been awarded to Jeff Walker.

iii) the **Interpretation contract** has been given to Val Hodgkinson who lives locally.

iv) the **South Coast Deer Fence** is underway. The reason that this has been approved by HLF is that it will allow biodiversity within the fenced area and they will be looking for evidence of this. eg more seeding of wild meadows, drainage and tree planting etc. There is an onus on the crofters to create biodiversity and if it doesn't happen some of the grants may be claimed back. Ideas for biodiversity projects have to be submitted by end March. There are some subsidies available to crofters. If interested please contact Sam Bridgewater or Archie MacLellan.

## **6. AOB**

i) Isabelle expressed her concern about the amount of **car parking** available in the public car park as now there are 2 shops and the start of the beechwood path nearby. It was suggested that the recycling bins be moved to the back of the hall, as at present they take up 2 – 3 parking spaces.

**Action:** Alison will speak to hall committee and Richmond Clements about moving the recycling to the back of the hall.

**Post Meeting Note:** *Robbie confirmed that HC would be happy for this change to go ahead, as long as the contractor who empties the banks is happy he will be able to access them at the hall. The Hall Committee agreed that the bottle banks could be tucked in behind the hall. It is likely that the can and paper banks will be removed completely as these can go into domestic blue bins.*

**Action:** Ali will talk to Archie about providing car parking near the broch.

ii) A member of the public expressed concern that the **snow blower** is off the road again this winter.

**Action:** Ali will talk to Ian Hay about a pre-season check for the future.

Date of next meeting **March 13<sup>th</sup> 2012**