

Applecross Community Council

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www.applecrosscommunity.org.uk

Minutes of Meeting 11th March 2008 (Unapproved)

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

Apologies: Audrey Sinclair, Richard Green, Robbie Bain, PC Joanna Mackinnon

In attendance: 18 members of the public

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved; proposed by Ewen, seconded by Gerry.

2. Matters Arising

30mph zone: Theresa Kemp has agreed to extend the zone by 80 metres to the south of Aonachan, though this still has to be officially approved. There will be additional flashing lights warning of the 20mph zone west of the Camustiel/Camusterrach junction.

Ownership of Filling Station site: Robbie Bain has discussed this with the appropriate people at Highland Council, who stated that they were not necessarily against passing ownership of the Filling Station site over to a community company, though they have not agreed to do so.

3. Treasurer's Report

There was £3,330 in the Community Council account on 28th February.

There was £307 in the Filling Station account on the same date.

£3,000 was placed in the Filling Station savings account some time ago, earning 6.1% interest.

4. Correspondence

- The Draft Core Paths Plan (also a copy in the Post Office). Responses to be submitted by 5th May.
- Notice of the annual renewal of insurance for the Council. It was noted that this insurance specifically covers firework displays.
- Notice of an application for planning permission in Kishorn.
- Liz Pritchard wrote to invite the community council to gather the community's views on the Out of Hours situation in Wester Ross, to inform Nicola Sturgeon of the situation prior to her visit in May.
- Documents on Planning and Development issues from the Director of the Planning and Development Service.
- Highland Council's draft affordable housing plan

- Invitation to respond to the Scottish Government's proposals to tackle climate change. Further information can be found on www.scotland.gov.uk/climatechangebill .

5. Proposal to Adopt Amended Ballot Paper for Transfer of Filling Station

After the meeting on 22nd February at which it was decided to offer three options in the ballot, it had been decided that this was too complex. Murdo had suggested limiting it to two choices;

1. A community company whose activities are restricted to the operation of the filling station, but with the power to take over the shop and Post Office, should the need ever arise.
2. The Community Company with Land Reform Act powers which is already underway

Gerry and Ruaridh agreed with this suggestion and the draft ballot paper was sent to Douglas Graham for comment. Mr Graham pointed out again that there were in fact three options and so he had reservations about offering only two, but if the Council insisted in offering two then they should be one with a narrow focus of activity and one with wider powers to further local social and economic development.

Gerry thought it would be best to offer these two options. Ruaridh agreed.

Ewen asked if the first option was going to be a Community Interest Company. It is not. Murdo explained that a community company is defined as any company that is based in the community, with an open membership and elected directors. Ewen suggested that it would be possible for the first company to adopt Land Reform Act powers at a later date. Ruaridh wondered if it would be possible to include a statement in the Memorandum and Articles that the company must not do so. Ewen stated that he thought the ballot was unnecessary, but if it must go ahead the choice should be limited to two options.

Alison said that the ballot should not be offering options to choose from. As the Community Company with LRA powers was now well down the road towards incorporation, and had received 107 completed membership application forms, the question in the ballot should be whether the community agreed to pass the operation and lease of the filling station to this company.

Ishbel thought two options should be offered.

Murdo stated that the decision to offer options in the ballot had already been made; he believed two options should be offered.

Alison asked for several amendments to be made to the draft ballot paper. The Community Council agreed to all the amendments with the exception of the suggestion that the second option should be referred to as 'the Community Company' rather than 'a Community Company' to make it clear that this was the company which was already in existence and moving towards incorporation.

6. Timetable for Ballot

June Forsyth has agreed to be returning officer.

The ballot papers will be sent out on Thursday, with a return date of 31st March.

Murdo said that the ballot would be based on the edited version of the electoral roll as the unedited version is only available for elections. A member of the public pointed out that this would disenfranchise a number of people. Murdo stated that this was the law, not Highland Council policy. Alison explained that when organising ballots in Raasay last year, with the help of Highland Council officials in Portree, she had been given the edited copy and sent to the library in Portree to access the unedited version. She had added the names on the unedited version to the edited list, returned the amended list to Highland Council and ballot papers had been sent out to the whole electorate on Raasay. A member of the public asked why it was possible to do this in Raasay, but not in Applecross.

Ewen suggested that anyone on the unedited list who wanted a ballot paper could approach the returning officer and ask to be sent one. Murdo agreed to ask Robbie if that would be possible.

Post Meeting Note: It was later decided to send ballot papers to those on the unedited roll.

7. AOCB

Playground at the Hall: It has been pointed out that there is nothing suitable in the new playground for toddlers to play on. Murdo will inquire if anything can be done about this.

Cycle Challenge: A member of the public asked if the date for the first cycle challenge had been set. Gerry said that the Bealach Beag would take place on May 10th and the Bealach Mor on September 6th.

Barriers on Bealach: Ewen asked if there had been any response to the letter to the roads department about the need for more barriers on the Bealach. Alison has not received a response and has written again recently.

Cost of Ballot: A member of the public asked how much the ballot would cost to run. Murdo replied that the main cost would be the price of about 400 second class stamps. Douglas Graham, the Community Council solicitor, has been invited to speak to the community about the options offered in the ballot, and this meeting will take place on Monday 17th March. The cost of organising this meeting will be separate from the costs of setting up the community company.

Ballot: A member of the public welcomed the chance to vote in the ballot.

Another member of the public asked that if the ballot was in favour of the first option, who would form that company and what form would it take, how many directors would it have etc. Murdo replied that the Community Council would instruct the solicitor to form that company. The format would be similar to that of the Community Company which is already underway.