

Applecross Community Council

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www.applecrosscommunity.org.uk

Minutes of Meeting 13th May 2008 (Unapproved)

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

Apologies: Ewen Gillies

In attendance: Audrey Sinclair, 8 members of the public

1. Minutes of AGM and April meeting and matters arising

AGM: Murdo asked why the AGM minutes had not appeared on the notice board. Alison explained that there was not room for the minutes of the ordinary meeting, the AGM minutes, the chairman's report and the treasurer's report. Murdo asked why the AGM minutes had not appeared in the 'An Carranach'. Alison explained that she had e-mailed both AGM minutes and the minutes of the ordinary meeting to the editor, who had published only the latter.

Murdo asked why Alison had issued the chairman's report with amendments which he had not approved of. Alison replied that she had referred the amendments to Murdo, but as she had heard nothing from him and the amendments were factual ones, she assumed he was happy with it and issued it. Murdo asked Alison to arrange to have the wording changed to the original on the website.

The AGM minutes were proposed by Gerry and seconded by Ishbel.

Minutes of 8th April: Gerry proposed that the Community Council should appoint a minutes secretary. He suggested that it was not appropriate for Alison to write the minutes as there was a danger that she was in a conflict of interest situation, as an interim director of the Community Company. Alison disagreed, stating that the minutes were written to a good standard.

Audrey suggested that it would be appropriate to appoint a minutes secretary in this situation.

The Community Council voted formally to advertise for a minutes secretary by a majority of 4 to 1.

Alison was asked to remove the words 'in principle', and 'private' from the minutes and include 'temporarily'.

The minutes were proposed by Gerry, seconded by Ruaridh.

A member of the public suggested that taping the minutes would provide a solution to disagreements.

Murdo said he was already taping the minutes.

Matters arising were not discussed.

3. Treasurer's Report

Thanks to Donald Ferguson who has audited the accounts for 2007-2008.

The balance in the Filling Station account on 28th April was £307.10.

The balance in the general account on 28th April was £2775.78.

Bob Cameron has confirmed that the annual grant for 2008-09 is £1092.65. £67.10 has been deducted by the Highland Council for insurance.

Alison asked for details of the month's income and expenditure to be included in the Treasurer's Report.

4. Correspondence

- Murdo received an invitation to the opening of the Inverbain Hydro Scheme on 22nd May.
- The proposal for the order to introduce the 20 mph limit at the school has missed the original publication date, but will be published on 16th May.
- All councillors had received a letter from Chris Ward, interim chair of the Applecross Community Company.
- Gerry wrote to Bryan Stout about suggested safety measures for the Cycle Challenge, but received no reply.
- Consultation on Draft Model Scheme of Establishment of Community Councils and Draft Code of Conduct for Community Councillors. An electronic version can be found on www.scotland.gov.uk
- Community Mediation information leaflets from Sacro
- Agenda for next Ward Forum in Lochcarron on 19th May
- Letter from Ardross Community Council re the erosion of the identity of Ross and Cromarty

5. Applecross Community Company and the Community Council's Disposal of Applecross Filling Station

Chris Ward, chair of the interim board of the Community Company produced a flow chart to indicate the process which the Company expects to go through before it can agree to take on the Filling Station, and to give an approximate idea of how long this will take.

A discussion followed about the best course of action should the feasibility study show that the filling station is unsafe, though it was agreed that this is unlikely.

Murdo agreed to ask Douglas Graham for advice; once this is available the Community Council could discuss what the next move should be.

6. Cycle Challenge

Alistair Brown presented the Council with a petition expressing concern about safety issues surrounding the Cycle Challenges. He explained that he had spoken to advisors on road safety in Edinburgh, who suggested that if he organised a petition which demonstrated that the community was concerned about the issue, they would then be able to look at the situation and make suggestions to improve safety. Murdo agreed that the Community Council would forward the petition to Edinburgh, once Alistair had gathered the sheets from Shildaig, Kinlochewe and Achnasheen.

Alistair asked Gerry to ask the organisers of the Challenge which had taken place on 10th May why the postwoman had not been provided with a motorcycle escort, as they had suggested she would. He also asked him to ask why the steward at the Shildaig junction to the coast road had tried to prevent four cars from using the coast road, when it was not closed at any point.

Alison pointed out that the organisers' website gave very little safety information, despite the fact that Gerry had asked them to include safety advice for those practicing for the challenge after concern was expressed last September. Gerry agreed and will ask the organisers to improve their safety advice.

Ruaridh suggested that the organisers could be asked to finance warning signs which could then be organised by Highland Council.

A member of the public suggested that the website should not display the times of participants as this encourages racing; the event is advertised as a challenge, not a race.

Audrey suggested that strong concern should be expressed to the organisers about safety issues.

7. Toscaig Telephone Box

BT is consulting on the removal of a large number of telephone boxes from the Highlands. This includes the phone box in Toscaig, which was used for 156 calls last year. Ewen had suggested that we should ask for another phone box to be installed at the Post Office, if the Toscaig box was removed. The existing box at the Post Office is well used. Sometimes it's not possible to use it as the money box is too full. It was agreed to find out the numbers of calls made from the PO box, and push for another one if the numbers justified it.

8. Data Protection Act Registration

Community Councils are now required to register as data controllers.

Audrey said that there was no need to do anything about this at the moment. Highland Council is negotiating on behalf of Community Councils about this.

9. AOCB

Meeting with Nicola Sturgeon: Gerry reported on the meeting on 12th May between the Out of Hours group and Nicola Sturgeon, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, at Lochcarron. The group argued for no reduction in the present service provided by GPs, arguing that the unique geographical challenge of the area means that this level of service is essential. Communities in this area are fragile and the loss of a GP would lead to further pressure on population levels.

Gerry remarked on the huge amount of time and effort that Liz Pritchard has put into this campaign.

Murdo agreed to write to thank her. He also thanked Gerry for his efforts.

Appointed Director to Applecross Community Company: The Community Council is entitled to nominate a representative to serve as an appointed director on the board of Applecross Community Company. The Initial General Meeting of the Company is expected to take place on 9th June. The nominee is not required to be a member of the company, but must be supportive of its purposes. The Community Council agreed to postpone the decision as to who would be the nominee.

Plastic Recycling: Alistair Brown, who has been organising the collection of plastic bottles, reported that the bags in which the bottles are collected are not being returned from Invergordon. This is causing problems as replacement bags are no longer available from the fish farms. He has asked ROWAN to sort this out. The Community Council will also put on pressure.

Date of next meeting: 10th June at 7.30.