

## **Applecross Community Council**

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

### **Minutes of Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2009 (unapproved)**

**Present:** Ali Brown, Ewen Gillies, Ali Macleod, Alison Macleod, Janet MacDonald, Ali Goldthorpe

**In attendance:** Councillor Audrey Sinclair,

#### **1) Minutes of previous meeting & matters arising**

- The minutes to be corrected as Janet had sent her apologies for November
- The ALPS notice board is to be put up at the coal shed
- The feasibility study on the potential for hydro electric energy schemes is now complete and will be discussed at the Community Company AGM
- The original plan for the O4O community odd job scheme has proved to be unworkable for numerous reasons. The fact that there is already a handyperson scheme, run by ILM, which is supposed to cover SW Ross means that it will be impossible to attract funding. Experience from other schemes shows that using volunteers to provide this sort of service is potentially problematic. Alison hopes instead to work with ILM to assess the service they currently provide, and to do what she can to improve the support provided to SW Ross.
- Ali M is going to speak to Archie and Highland Council TECs Services to find out who is responsible for the wall around the public toilets as it is starting to need repair.

#### **2) Financial Report**

Opening Balance	£3043.24
Expenditure	£177.44 Bench from Sam
	£24.52 for Auditor's gift
	£45.00 rent of hall
Closing Balance	£2796.98

The application for keeping the public toilets open over the winter has come through. We were given the full £700.00.

#### **3) Correspondence**

- **The Highland Council Housing & Property Service Current Consultations**

Highland Council are currently seeking views from communities on a range of issues

The Development of Highland's Housing Strategy- closing date 31/12/09

The draft Antisocial Behaviour Policy & information leaflet- Closing date 12/02/10

The Highland Housing register Allocations Policy – closing date 12/02/10

If you would like an opportunity to comment on these topics please go to

<http://highland.gov.uk/livinghere/housing/>

alternatively you can request copies by email

[housingandproperty@highland.gov.uk](mailto:housingandproperty@highland.gov.uk) or telephone 01463 702 888

#### ▪ **Planning aid for Scotland**

This organisation helps train Community Councils to understand better their role in planning matters. Alison M will ask if they would consider coming to this area to provide training.

#### **4) Cycle Challenge**

The Highland Councillors for ward 6 met with the organisers of the events, having taken legal advice about the extent to which they could influence the way events are run. It turned out that they have very little control; had they refused to allow the road closure the events could still have carried on and this would have been potentially dangerous.

They therefore decided to grant the two road closure orders for 2010, but stated that this will be conditional on a maximum of 400 entrants at each event.

Highland Council has also strongly recommended that the organisers of the event:

- Provide all entrants with reflective vests to be worn at all times on the public road
- Ensure that all entrants display identification numbers with a minimum character height of 79mm to front and rear at all times.
- Work with police, Highland Council and the communities of Applecross and Sheildaig to minimise disruption on the North Applecross coast road
- Work with Police, Highland Council, the community of Kinlochewe and local landowners, to ensure that a minimum of 250 parking spaces are identified near the start/finish at Kinlochewe.

#### **5) Ward Forum on Winter Maintenance of Roads**

Ali M attended this meeting at which Ian Hay made a presentation.

The Bealach road is priority 3 but precautionary gritting is allowed.

The coast road is priority 3

The main point of contention is the withdrawal of the Colin Stevenson contract, which severely affects the Diabaig road clearing operation.

The constant theme at all Ward Forums is the subject of budget cutbacks.

In the case of roads maintenance, for example, there used to be a vehicle kept in reserve in Dingwall and now there is one in reserve to cover the whole of the Highlands

We can expect these budget cuts to continue. Ali asked if precautionary gritting on the Bealach was safe in these circumstances. The reply suggested it had

already been looked at and although continuing now we could not assume that it will continue in the future.

The Community Council would like to note its support for the communities of Diabaig and Achintraid, which are directly affected by the changes which have already taken place. We would also like to compliment the local roadmen for their efforts to keep the roads open despite the increasing restrictions placed on them; Ali also mentioned the community's appreciation for their work at the Forum.

## **6) Filling Station**

The Filling Station is now being run by 20 volunteers and open 8 hours a week. The Hotel and Sean & Isabelle have offered to sell fuel outwith these hours to anybody who would otherwise be stuck

The Big Lottery Fund is deciding whether to grant 50% funding for the refurbishment tomorrow (Wednesday). The ownership of the land at the filling station passed from Highland Council to the Community Company the previous week.

It is possible that the electricity supply may be cut off, although it may be possible to negotiate with SSE. Ewen suggested using a generator if need be.

The refurbishment will hopefully go ahead by Easter but it may have to go out to tender first which would lengthen the procedure.

## **7) Nomination of an appointed director for the Community Company**

Ewen volunteered to serve on the Community Company board as an appointed director to represent the Community Council.

## **AOB**

- There are some bags of plastic bottles still at the car park and these now need to be delivered to the recycling site at Dingwall as the company they were delivered to has failed. The campsite will see if they can compress them so they can be taken to Dingwall in one journey.
- An invitation was received to attend the forthcoming carol service in the village hall. The service is open to all.
- Janet asked if a new south deer fence is definitely included in the projects in the ALPS scheme. It is, but it will not be built until year two. The result of the final bid for funding for the scheme will be announced in March.
- The date of the next meeting is 9<sup>th</sup> February.

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year  
from the Community Council**