

## **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 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2010**

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

**In attendance:** 2 members of the public

**Apologies:** Ewen Gillies, Audrey Sinclair, Johanna MacKinnon, Jean Urquhart

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

The minutes were proposed by Alison M & seconded by Ali B

The Alps notice board has been erected.

Ali Macleod has spoken to Archie concerning the wall at the public toilets

Ali Macleod will take a bag of plastic away on his next trip

#### **2) Correspondence**

The Western Ross Alliance are having an AGM on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February at 11.am

NHS Highland have recently introduced a bowel screening programme for men & women between the ages of 50-70 for more information you can go to

[www.bowelscreening.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.bowelscreening.scot.nhs.uk)

Highland Environmental Newsletter

A Letter from Charles Kennedy regarding the Post Office hours and explaining why they are offering only 12 hours a week

Digital outreach – Digital TV switchover in Skye and Lochalsh will happen in two stages, July 2010 and October 2010. Free switchover training and grants are available.

Tom Forrest, Health & Sport Committee

Copy of a letter sent by Rodger Evans to Scottish Water concerning the poor quality of the water in Culduie

Copy of a letter sent by Rodger Evans to Charles Kennedy concerning the Post Office Hours

(The Mail leaves @ 9.00am, special deliveries cannot leave in the same

mornings post as the paper work needed to go with them can only be done in the reckoning at the end of the Post Offices working day)

## **o4o**

Alison's contract with o4o has finished. The proposed handypersonscheme has been abandoned, for various reasons. Work done by Alison showed that the best way of supplying an effective and sustainable handyperson service is to use well-trained employees, and not older people as volunteers. Skye and Lochalsh Housing Association runs such a service, which is well respected and used as a model for handyperson services elsewhere. Alison wished to help ILM, who are supposed to provide handyperson services to this area, to adopt some of the methods used by Skye and Lochalsh, and to consider taking on another staff member, as it is clear that the present handyperson, based in Poolewe, has too wide an area to cover and cannot do it properly on his own. However o4o would not finance this work, nor a suggested "Good Neighbouring" scheme for the area, which would have provided advice and support for older people, using volunteers.

Concern was raised by many of the people Alison spoke to in SW Ross about the lack of proper community consultation on this project by the project manager, who is based at the Centre for Rural Health in Inverness.

## **Renewable Energy**

Alison & Ali will be attending a renewable energy course in Glasgow on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February which will help to plan how such a large project can be made more manageable. Ali is about to set in motion a survey on the grid. The feasibility studies are in from the 6 streams. The next step is to see what the capacity of the grid is in order to export the excess of generated power. SSE will carry out a grid survey costing approx £5-7,000, funded by CES and refundable if the proposed scheme goes ahead.

## **Filling Station**

Refurbishment work at the filling station will take place in mid-March. The fuel tanks are going to be cleaned out as part of the work, so there will not be another delivery of fuel until after the refurbishment. Unfortunately this means that diesel supplies will run out within the next two or three weeks. Petrol supplies should last until the work is carried out.

## **Tim Williams's resignation**

The Community council would like to thank Tim for all his help and wish him all the best for the future. Ali M will speak to Donald MacBeath about being co opted.

## **A.O.B**

Seventy communities have been granted broadband provision upgrade. There will be a 'Second round' and as our exchange is eligible we would ask everyone who did or did not write in last time to write in again to the address below

Robert Henderson

Policy Officer

The Scottish Government

Enabling Technologies Unit

5 Atlantic Quay,

150 Broomielaw,

Glasgow G2 8LU

**Post Meeting Note:** Applecross has been added to the list of communities getting a broadband upgrade, with the work to be carried out in May. Unfortunately, it seems that the effect of this will only be to allow more customers to access broadband, and not to improve the speed of the connection.

It was agreed that the remainder of the SNH grant could be used to replant small areas at the filling station, and in the area between the filling station and the car park, to improve the biodiversity of the area and to make it look more inviting.

Ali Brown asked if the Community council could write to the Post Office to find out where the post box has gone, last heard of in Wick

It was suggested that the Bealach blocked sign could be turned into an electronic sign Ali G to ask the county if they feel this would be necessary

**Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March