

## **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 Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2010**

**Present:** Donald MacBeath, Ali Goldthorpe, Ali McLeod, Alison McLeod, Janet MacDonald, Ewen Gillies and Councillor Audrey Sinclair

**In attendance:** 3 members of the public

**Apologies:** Ali Brown, Jean Urquhart and PC MacKinnon

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

The minutes were proposed by Alison M & seconded Janet

The Broad band capacity will be increased but the quality unfortunately will not be addressed at the moment

It is not feasible to have the Blood Transfusion Service in Lochcarron as it is too expensive.

The post box for the post office is still in Wick, but the photos of the site have now been sent directly to the person who is to sort it out.

#### **2) Treasurers Report**

Opening Balance £3362.47

£405.00 toilet cleaning (three months)

. 48 interest

£700.00 grant has been paid in for the upkeep of the public toilets in February.

#### **3) Correspondence**

The Highland Council would like to know if the Community Council is content to have Gaelic on our core path signs. It was agreed that we are, but we were uncertain whether there were core paths in Applecross and if so, which they were.

Insurance policy renewal has come through for the CC; the cost will come off the 2011 grant

The West Highland Free Press would like the minutes to the CC. They will be advised that they can get access via the web-site.

Application for grant of premises Licence for the Walled Garden.

e- planning: The CC will get a standard notification of any planning applications by e-mail which affect our area; any comments can be e-mailed back making the system more efficient.

Home composting demo & chat on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> of March in Shildaig. This is organised by West Coast Recycling (Highland), the group who were responsible for the plastic bottle collection. As this has had to be abandoned, the group is now working on promoting awareness of the importance of reducing our carbon footprint.

#### **4) A.L.Ps Application**

Congratulations to Archie and the Applecross Trust, as the final A.L.Ps bid has been successful.

A representative of the Community Council is included as a partner on the management board for the project. The plan is that the board will be made up of representatives of various community groups, Archie & 1 member of the trust. As things stand, this management group is not going to be constituted. This raises the concern that those involved in the group may be individually liable, should anything go wrong. The Trust intends that as lead partner, it would be responsible for sorting out any problems, but the Trust's solicitor was unable to rule out the possibility that members of the management group who signed the partnership agreement may be liable. This is a serious concern for all the Community Councillors, as they would be individually liable. Ali M. asked Robbie Bain if Highland Council's lawyers would advise on this, but they are not able to do so. Audrey advised that the CC should not sign up as things stand, but should instead suggest that the management board forms a company which limits the liability of all the community partners.

The Community Council is supportive of ALPS, but cannot expose its members to any risk of liability.

#### **5) Filling Station**

The refurbishment of the filling station will begin next week. The pumps are still in Germany but should arrive soon. Fuel is ordered for 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Once operating the filling station will be able to offer longer opening hours. The new pumps will be card operated. There will be local fuel cards for anyone in the village who does not have credit or debit cards. These will also be available to all regular customers at the filling station.

#### **6) Renewable Energy**

The grid survey has just been commissioned from SSE; the Community Company has been fully funded to do this by Community Energy Scotland. The survey will identify the work required to bring the grid up to a standard which would enable it to carry electricity generated in Applecross out to end-users.

#### **7) A.O.B**

##### **Bealach: Emergency Repair Work**

Bryan Stout has let the CC know that the Bealach road on the Lochcarron side between the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> hairpin has been deteriorating for some time and emergency repair work is now necessary. Previous work done on the area to try to prevent further deterioration has failed to be effective.

A seven & a half ton weight restriction will be placed on the hill in the very near future, with an exception for emergency vehicles only. The road will be closed to all vehicles at the end of August for approximately eight weeks as the wall will have to be dug out & re-built.

The Community Council expressed concern about the effect this closure will have on Applecross, particularly as the tourist season is still in full swing at that time of year. However all understood that these repairs were essential for the safety of all road users and would have to be done.

Judy Fish explained that the 7.5 ton ban would affect the coaches which bring a large number of customers to the hotel, as they normally do a round trip, travelling in down the coast road and leaving over the Bealach. Audrey will ask Bryan if it would be possible for the Applecross side of the Bealach to remain open to heavier vehicles at the moment, and during the total closure to allow coaches and other tourist vehicles access to the top of the hill.

### **Rural Development Grant**

Business Gateway (Highland Opportunities Ltd) is offering business start up grants. The grant will meet three quarters of the cost of essential expenditure up to a maximum of £4,500. It can help with the purchase of capital equipment, cost of marketing, or other one-off costs associated with setting up a business. It appears reasonably straightforward to apply for and claim. The applicant must attend a Business Gateway start up training course, which would help them to produce a business plan for the new venture. If interested phone Business Gateway on 01463 713889. The terms & conditions will also be displayed on the post office notice board.

**Next Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> of April 7.30pm**