

## Lairg Community Council

### Minutes of meeting held in Lairg Community Centre on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Sandy Allison, Chair, (SA), Hector MacLennan, Treasurer (HM), Jeff Norrie, Vice Chair (JN), Andrew Mackay (AMK), Jackie Young (JY), John Sutherland (JS)

**Apologies:** Iain Mackay (IM)

**Police Scotland:** No representative

**Minutes Secretary:** Mary Goulder (MG)

This being the inaugural meeting of the newly elected Community Council the Chair was expected to be taken by a Highland Council representative for the purpose of electing the new Chair. However no THC representative was present. MG assumed the Chair to accept the nominations for and election of the new Chair. Jeff Norrie was proposed by Andrew Mackay and this was seconded by Hector MacLennan. JN accepted the position and assumed the Chair for the remaining office bearer elections with the following results:

| Nominee          | Position   | Nominated by  | Seconded by   | Accepted/rejected |
|------------------|------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Andrew Mackay    | Vice Chair | Jeff Norrie   | Sandy Allison | Accepted          |
| Jackie Young     | Secretary  | Sandy Allison | Jeff Norrie   | Accepted          |
| Hector MacLennan | Treasurer  | Andrew Mackay | Jackie Young  | Accepted          |

In the case of both Secretary and Treasurer posts these are held nominally with full responsibility by the post holders but it was unanimously agreed to ask MG to continue to carry out the day to day work incurred with the present terms remaining in place. MG agreed.

THC Ward Manager Garry Cameron will be advised of the outcome of the election. **MG Action.**

The changes of office bearers will incur changes to the signatories at the Bank of Scotland. MG to check out procedures and inform office bearers as to action required. **MG Action.**

This completed the first agenda for the meeting which then proceeded to the regular monthly agenda, chaired by JN.

**Item 1. Welcome/Apologies (as above)/Police report.** Chair JN began by expressing grateful thanks to all outgoing CC members. SA has given sterling work for the past four years in the post of Chair; EA also brought dedication to the post of Secretary and was especially commended for her work with the CC website. She has kindly offered to continue to maintain the site for a brief period until alternative arrangements can be put in place. IM will be asked if he might be able to take on the regular updating of the site. **AMK/IM.** LQ has served many years on the CC and until quite recently acted as Press Officer for it. She too was warmly thanked for all her input. JN welcomed newly elected member John Sutherland. **Police report** was submitted post-meeting by email with apologies stating that the nominated officer had been called to an incident at the last minute. The report gave detail of only two

incidents in Lairg in the last month which resulted in a local young man being assaulted after the dance on 8<sup>th</sup> November and another minor disturbance involving youths. Sgt Sutherland attended the well supported Winterfest event. PC Fergus Macleod will now be covering Lairg area as part of his rural beat.

**Item 2. Adoption of Minutes of November meeting.** The November Minutes were adopted as a true and accurate record. Proposed: Jackie Young; seconded: Hector MacLennan.

**Item 3. Matters arising.** Gunn's Wood. It is understood that the blocked pathways have now been cleared. Stones have been placed across one entrance to the wood at Balloan. JY will check on this. **JY Action.**

**Item 4. LDCI update.** JN read from a detailed report which listed the current projects: Winterfest – very successful event resulting in the securing of £1800 towards another event in 2016. Fitness room – An application to the Weir Trust was rejected but another will be made to the Sports Facilities Fund following a discussion at LCA on 1<sup>st</sup> December. Lairg website – will be further discussed at the December Board meeting after which funding will be sought. Telephone Directory – Final changes to be made before printing. It should be available in January. Churchill Path – Clean-up day was held in November. Awaiting outcome of funding application to Scottish Sea Farms 'Heart of the Community' Trust, due at the end of February. Social enterprise – Mentoring and best practice advice meetings with HIE as well as a consultation on the feasibility study with HISEZ will take place in December. CCs thanked LDCI for such a detailed update.

**Item 5. LCA update.** The main hall floor has been finished; new white lines added for badminton. Ongoing interior decoration is in progress. Fundraising continues – annual charities sale including craft fair on 7<sup>th</sup> November. Open LCA meetings where members of the public are invited to come along have been very poorly supported with generally no-one attending though two people did come to the most recent meeting. The second draft of the SCIO has been submitted to VGES for review. The LCA was thanked for taking time to provide the updating information.

**Item 6. CALL update.** Although no longer a CC member Emma Armstrong will continue to keep the CC informed as to progress, or otherwise, by CALL. There was nothing new to report this month.

**Item 7. Lights for Air Ambulance update.** (SA) The invoice for the lights has still not been received in spite of much chasing. SA will press hard for it in order to meet the requirements of the funding body within the time restraints. **SA Action.**

**Item 8. Falls of Shin update.** Project apparently progressing through funding procedures.

**Item 9. Financial report.** (MG) Treasurer's Account balance stands at £2729.46; three payments made in the last month, for room hire for CC meeting, Faclan Word Service and the purchase of the Remembrance wreath laid by the CC at this year's Remembrance Service. Windfarm Account balance stands at £389.76 reflecting the Micro Grant made to the Bradbury Centre. Projects Account is unchanged at £104.73.

**Item 10. Planning applications.** (SA) Nil of note.

**Item 11. Windfarms. Strath Tirry.** REG has been invited to February CC meeting. No reply received as yet. **Sallachy.** Ian Thompson sent thanks to the CC for its support through the application procedures. CC members expressed disappointment at the Scottish Government decision to reject this windfarm which it is felt will result in a big loss of income to the community. The Shinness pylon line community survey is underway – HM will liaise further with JN and JS on this. **HM/JN/JS Action.**

**Item 12. Correspondence. (1) Assynt Community Council letter.** Assynt CC Secretary has written seeking support with regard to problems with the Patient Transport Service operated by Scottish Ambulance Service. SAS to be invited to attend the February CC meeting. Assynt CC will be advised and also invited. **MG Action.**

**Item 13. Any other competent business. (1) Foundation Scotland annual review of Lairg Windfarm Fund.** Agreed that this meeting will take place on 2nd March at 7pm ahead of the regular monthly meeting. FS to be advised. **MG Action.** **(2) CC representatives to the SSE & E.ON Windfarm Panel.** SA stood down from this responsibility which he shared with JN. JN and AMK will now be the reps to the Panel. Foundation Scotland to be advised. **MG Action.** **(3) Publicity for meeting dates.** Posters to be updated and placed throughout the village. **MG Action.** **(4) TECS** – cattle grid north of Dalnessie has a large porthole developing; roadside verges still not cut back. SA will pass these issues to TECS. **SA Action.** **(5) Individual responsibilities of CC.** Responsibilities have not been allocated in recent sessions. This to be an agenda item at next meeting with members coming prepared with their suggestions and offers as to which responsibilities will be taken. **ALL CCs/Agenda item.** **(6) Sailing Club.** Representatives of the Sailing Club should be invited to update the CC as to the Club's activities and future plans. JN will update the CC after February. **JN Action.** **(7) NHS Highland.** No further update has been forthcoming following NHS Highland's visit to the CC earlier in the year. Invitation to be issued for April. Special topics for concern are care of the elderly locally and the possibility of a new care home being established. CC should look into engaging with other providers of such care homes. Important local issue. **MG/All CCs Action.** **(8) Angling Club.** SA advised that the now regular low water levels being maintained in Loch Shin by SSE are causing major problems with access to the Angling Club. The Club is one of the main generators of income to the community but inability to access the loch, especially by wheelchair users, is reducing the numbers of visitors. SSE Generating Group had indicated it would help with costs to extend the jetty and slipway but nothing has been received. The jetty is now 10ft short in spite of being extended fairly recently; the slipway falls over 20ft short. SA has mentioned the problem to Cllr Linda Munro and will discuss further with her. All CCs are encouraged to try to establish a direct contact within SSE who can help. Discuss again in February. **All CCs Action/Agenda item.**

**Item 14. Date and time of next meeting.** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd February 2016 at 7.30pm in the Lairg Community Centre. The room is already booked.

**Item 15. Lairg Windfarm Ltd – Lairg Community Fund.** At private session, an award of £1,000 was made to Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust. An award of £2,000 was made to Lairg & District Learning Centre.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm.