

## Lairg Community Council

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

**Present:** Sandy Allison, Chair, (SA), Jeff Norrie, Vice Chair (JN), Hector MacLennan, Treasurer (HM), Liz Quinn (LQ)

**Apologies:** Emma Armstrong, Secretary (EA), Jackie Young (JY, Iain Mackay (IM)

**Also present:** Highland Councillor Hugh Morrison (HMN), Sheena Skinner

**Police Scotland:** PC David Thompson

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

**Item 1. Welcome/Apologies (as above)/Police report.** Chair Sandy Allison opened the meeting with a welcome. PC Thomson arrived shortly after the start of the meeting due to a call out. His report included twelve incidents in the last month: three road traffic related, three assistance calls, two neighbours' disputes, one domestic, one drugs related and one suspicious vehicle. Only minor incidents at the Crofters Dance, all dealt with at the time. Inappropriate parking in Lochside and at Ord Place was passed to PC for attention. Questions asked about over 70s driving licensing were directed to the DVLA website. Police report ended at 8.10pm.

**Item 2. Lairg Tennis Courts – Miles Cameron.** Miles was unable to attend tonight's meeting. JN has suggested that Miles has an on-site meeting with Sam Barlow of the Table Tennis Club and Alasdair Marshall of LCA, with CC attendance if thought necessary to discuss further, gauge interest, etc. JN will liaise and try to find a suitable date and time. **JN Action.**

**Item 3. Adoption of Minutes of August meeting.** The August Minutes were adopted as a true and accurate record. Proposed: Jeff Norrie; seconded: Sandy Allison.

**Item 4. Matters arising.** HM raised concern about windfarm community benefit applications being approved by email. This does not allow for proper discussion. It was agreed that in future applications must be discussed at meetings prior to decision making. HMN has asked questions about the procedures being used for renewal of heating systems in council housing, in particular a house in Ord Place with pipes on the outside of the building. As yet he has had no response. He will follow this up. **HMN Action.**

**Item 5. LDCI update.** JN gave the report from the Development Officer. This included a list of meetings attended by the DO, ongoing projects and meetings planned for the coming month. Fitness Room project continues with fund seeking and equipment research. Details available on request from DO. LDCI AGM was held on 1<sup>st</sup> September but sadly was poorly attended by members and public. Office bearers were duly appointed.

**Item 6. LCA update.** JN gave the report received from LCA in which it was reported that exterior painting of the centre has started with the main hall floor refurbishment scheduled for later in October. The next open meeting will be on 8<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm and members of the public are invited to attend to hear updates on LCA progress. A charities sale and craft fair will be held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November' spaces are still available for crafters/charities. Contact Margaret Stoddart on [maggielairg@btinternet.com](mailto:maggielairg@btinternet.com) Thanks were sent to LCA for sending the updating report.

**Item 7. CALL update.** No information in EA's absence.

**Item 8. Lights for Air Ambulance update.** (SA) Great frustration as this project has still not been finalised in spite of the lights being delivered and all approvals apparently in place. HMN will make enquiries of all concerned. **HMN Action.**

**Item 9. Falls of Shin update.** No new update available.

**Item 9. Financial report.** (MG) Treasurer's Account balance stands at £1883.85. Windfarm Account is unchanged at £739.76. Projects Account is unchanged at £104.73. Cheque received tonight from THC for annual grant of £1091.28 and will be paid into the Treasurer's account in the coming days. **MG Action.**

**Item 11. Planning applications.** Anemometer to be sited at Garvary Moor, Lairg. Application for a four bedroomed house and shed south east of Lairg. No objections raised. HMN was asked to press for single track road to be upgraded to double track if Dalchork sub-station development goes ahead.

**Item 12. Windfarms. Strathkirry.** REG has been invited to attend the November meeting.

**Item 13. Correspondence.** (1) Letter received from Dr Tony Wright regarding the poor quality of radio reception throughout the area. He should be encouraged to take the issue to Ofcom; the CC will provide a letter of support if requested.

**Item 14. Any other competent business.** (1) Community bus. HMN confirmed that the Durness – Tongue route is a service route and passengers from Lairg are entitled to use it. A new service will meet the evening train in Ardgay to take passengers on to the north starting after the October school holidays. Also a weekly bus will run from Durness to Inverness and back on Saturdays. Other changes take effect at the same time which it is hoped will improve transport links (2) Dog fouling. This perennial problem has worsened recently with many pavements affected. Gunn's Wood also identified as an abused area. HMN will send posters detailing the fine for not picking up dog waste. Any offenders should be reported to THC Dog Warden. **HMN Action.** (3) **Uncut verges** continue to increase dangers at many junctions where sightlines are obscured. HMN stated that the new THC has revoked the 'no cutting' policy and that verges will receive a cut later in the year. Water across the Lairg Road to the west of Bonar Bridge was again reported and it was urged that this should be dealt with by THC no matter what the source prior to winter weather causing serious icing at this point. **HMN Action.** (4) **Safe Highland.** This event returns to Lairg in October in the Community Centre, details will be advertised. (5) **Care in North West.** JN highlighted events being held in three venues, Strathy, Tongue and Durness with regard to care home provision. The case should be made strongly for a new care home to be built in Lairg which can easily demonstrate both a need and the feasibility of such a development. HMN agreed to take this to the meetings. **HMN Action.** (6) **Sewer water** is rising in gardens in Ord Place. First reported three months ago only one visit by THC engineers who have not returned and the problem is worsening. Health hazard. SA will provide HMN with further information to chase this up. **SA/HMN Action.** (7) **Water** behind Ferrycroft running through gardens due to a blocked drain. **HMN Action.** (8) **CC holiday months.** Agreed that this should be an item for discussion once newly elected CC is in place in November. SA confirmed that he will not stand as Chair after the elections.

**Item 15. Date and time of next meeting.** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in the Lairg Community Centre. It was previously agreed there will be no meeting in October.

**Item 16. Lairg Windfarm Ltd – Lairg Community Fund.** At a private session following the meeting two awards were made from the Lairg Community Fund. From the main grant LDCI was awarded £2,000 towards the costs of running the Winterfest event in November. Jean West was awarded £100 for her individual application to the Micro Grant Scheme to allow her to undertake training to run jogging groups in the village.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.