

Lairg Community Council

Minutes of meeting held in Lairg Community Centre on Wednesday 4th November 2015 at 7.30pm

Present: Sandy Allison, Chair, (SA), Hector MacLennan, Treasurer (HM), Emma Armstrong, Secretary (EA), Andrew Mackay (AMK), Iain Mackay (IM), Jackie Young (JY)

Apologies: Jeff Norrie, Vice Chair, (JN)

Police Scotland: PC Ian Forbes

Minutes Secretary: Mary Goulder (MG)

Item 1. Welcome/Apologies (as above)/Police report. Chair Sandy Allison opened the meeting and invited PC Forbes to give his report. Thirty-two reports have been made to the police since the last CC meeting in September; little of consequence with many being firearms and licensing renewals. Two road traffic collisions occurred, two fixed penalties issued (speeding/noisy exhaust), and a theft from the portacabins. Use of the local postcodes for car insurance fraud has been noted and the public should be aware. Report any such to the police and the relevant insurance company immediately. PC Forbes confirmed that the Lairg Police station is not currently in use by the force with six personnel working from the Golspie station meantime. With thanks for attending PC Forbes left at 7.40pm.

Item 2. Adoption of Minutes of September meeting. The September Minutes were adopted as a true and accurate record. Proposed: Sandy Allison; seconded: Hector MacLennan.

Item 3. Matters arising. None.

Item 4. LDCI update. No report available.

Item 5. LCA update. No report available.

Item 6. CALL update. (EA) A letter received from Dr Paul Monaghan, MP, was read to the meeting. Dr Monaghan advised that his information from SSE is that no decision has yet been taken on the siting of the pylon line and that SSE is happy to consult regarding alternative routes and the possibility of burying cables. He will advise EA when SSE provides dates for further meetings. EA will keep CC informed of any progress. **EA Action.**

Item 7. Lights for Air Ambulance update. (SA) Fire Brigade now holds the lights and is ready for any call out. SA will chase up paperwork regarding invoicing etc and also advise LDCI Project Officer. **SA Action.**

Item 8. Falls of Shin update. No new update available.

Item 9. Financial report. (MG) Treasurer's Account balance stands at £2861.60 which reflects the receipt of THC annual grant of £1091.28. Windfarm Account balance stands at £639.76. Projects Account is unchanged at £104.73.

Item 10. Planning applications. Nil of note.

Item 11. Windfarms. Strath Tirry. Some concerns have been raised about proximity to residential property but no objections made. REG will be invited to February CC meeting. **MG Action.**

Item 12. Correspondence. (1) Offer from CAB to make brief presentation to CC but this was felt not to be required meantime. (2) THC advised of its take-over from the police of Parking Enforcement in April 2016 when Traffic Wardens will cease to operate. (3) Invitation received to attend reception given by HMS Sutherland in Golspie on November 11th. AMK may attend for CC. **AMK Action.**

Item 13. Any other competent business. (1) **Gunns Wood.** Two issues with the walking track; one where seven mature trees have fallen across the track rendering it impassable. Another section now has waist-high mud. Also aware of an issue with fencing, SA will

contact FCS. **SA Action.** (2) **Countryside Ranger Service – proposed loss of service.** It is understood that one of the five Ranger posts in the north may be removed. CC will write to THC in full support of Ranger Ian Paterson and the value of this post to the community. **MG Action.** (3) **Ambulance station staff levels.** The Lairg Ambulance Station remains understaffed by two posts but no evidence of recruitment/advertising has been seen. SAS will be asked to update CC. **MG Action.** (4) **Dog fouling.** Once again this problem is evident at both Ord Hill and Ferrycroft. Waste bins are available. Owners ignoring the law should be reported to THC Dog Warden. (5) **Flood at Ferrycroft.** HM will check this before next meeting. **HM Action.**

Item 14. Date and time of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 2nd December at 7.30pm in the Lairg Community Centre. This will be the inaugural meeting of the newly elected Community Council. The appointment of office bearers will be made and future meeting dates will be decided after which the meeting will follow the routine procedures.

Item 15. Lairg Windfarm Ltd – Lairg Community Fund. At a private session following the meeting, an award of £250 was made from the Lairg Community Fund Micro Grant Scheme to The Bradbury Centre. Bonar Bridge, to assist with its Christmas Activities programme. **MG Action.**

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.