

Lairg Community Council

Minutes of AGM held in Lairg Community Centre on Wednesday 4th May 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Andrew Mackay, Chair/Treasurer (AMK), Jamie Dick, Vice Chair (JD), Jackie Young, Secretary (JY), Sandy Allison (SA), Iain Thomson (IT), John Sutherland (JS), Catherine MacDonald (CM)

Apologies: Louise Skinner (LS), Retiring Highland Councillor Linda Munro (LM)

Also attending: Kaye Hurrion LDCI Chair (KH), Donna Gilchrist (DG), (CM), Caroline McMorran, Northern Times, Lorraine Boshoff, LCA, Steven Maclean (SM)

Minutes Secretary: Mary Goulder (MG)

Item 1. Welcome/Apologies (as above.) Chair Iain Tomson opened the meeting, the first AGM in person since 2019. He began with recording thanks to outgoing THC Councillor Linda Munro for her many years of service to the community and her support of the CC. She will be greatly missed but the CC wished her well in her future endeavours.

Item 2. Adoption of minutes of last AGM. The minutes of the AGM held on 9th June 2021 were adopted as a true and accurate record; proposed: Iain Thomson, seconded: Andrew Mackay.

Item 3. Chairman's report. (IT) It has been a strange year with all our CC meetings over Zoom meetings since the last AGM

I think this has perhaps made progress, on some projects a bit more difficult, and overall it has been a disappointing year in that respect. Hopefully things will move on and perhaps us all getting round the table tonight is a good start.

Tourism Project in Achany Glen – this looked like an exciting project and the CC indicated that we would be supportive in principle. There was concern over the applicant's ability to purchase land from FLS without the land going on to the open market as this is only usually an option for community groups. Contact was made with FLS to clarify the land issue but no response received. Other than an application to put a track in to the woods there does not appear to be any further movement regarding this project.

Migdale Hospital continues to be a concern although at the recent Creich CC meeting Kate Kenmure, NHS Highland, indicated that various options are being explored with the hope of having community consultations by the end of the summer. Reassurances were given that the hospital will return to full capacity once staff and money shortages are addressed.

Bridgend House still no improvement and continues to be an eyesore and hazard. As this is a private building, I am not sure how much we can do.

We have continued to be frustrated by lack of help from THC regarding the **Speed signs** in Lairg but recent emails from Stuart Bruce Lighting and communications Engineer THC regarding proposed replacement of light columns in Lairg may give us an opportunity.

Despite the efforts of Louise Skinner and Linda Munro the **Ferrycroft playpark** project has not progressed with THC being pretty unhelpful. Let's hope the work already done will push the council on to do something this year.

Dalchork Substation work has progressed more or less according to schedule. It is disappointing that SSEN have not delivered any community benefit and their position is that they have no money available to do so. The subcontractors have been more willing to help and it is important to note that this help is solely from the subcontractors and not SSEN. So we have had no work done on the Bird Hide access road or maintenance to the hide itself. SSEN were given two weeks to come up with an offer (at last CL meeting) otherwise we will need to forget them and find alternative arrangements for the bird hide.

Minutes approved 24/5/2023

There has been a renewed interest in windfarm development in the area and I believe the community council should continue to be broadly supportive as this is an opportunity to provide a large and long term income in to the area. There will be a perception that we have too many turbines but even if all the current applications are approved we will still have less than one windfarm where I used to live in Ayrshire. We will need to ensure that we use this money wisely and leave a legacy. We also need to make sure that we avoid the deforestation that has taken place in the past e.g. at Rosehall WF and that future projects do not result in loss of tree cover.

LDCI has continued to push forward with the Care and Wellbeing project and hopefully we will see this coming to fruition soon. They have also worked on, among other things, the Helping Hands fund to deliver Community larder supplies, Health walks, the outdoor shelter, War memorial, Queen's Canopy and the Community magazine. Thanks to Kaye and her board for all their hard work.

Thanks to all community council members for their work and support

Thanks to Jamie for getting the new website up and running and for maintaining it.

Thanks to Mary for keeping us all on the straight and narrow.

Thanks to Donna for making sure we stay in the black and keeping HMRC at bay.

And a big thank you from us all to Linda Munro for all her help and advice over the past years I hope she enjoys her work with Carr Gorm.

Item 4. Secretary's report. As an elected member JY is secretary but with the duties mostly carried out for the CC by MG who was thanked for this. Little to report other than the secretarial and liaison duties continue to tick along, mostly achieved by email.

Item 5/6. Treasurer's report/Adoption of accounts. Lairg CC accounts have been audited again by Ashley Poole who was thanked for conducting the audit and preparing the accounts in the manner required by THC. The current figures were presented at the monthly meeting immediately following the AGM.

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Andrew Mackay, seconded by Iain Thomson. The accounts will now be submitted to the Ward Manager to trigger the payment of the annual admin grant. **DG Action.**

Item 7. Election of office bearers. The outgoing office bearers stepped down and Mary Goulder assumed the Chair to conduct the elections, the results of which were as follows:

Position	Proposer	Secunder
-----------------	-----------------	-----------------

Chair: Iain Thomson	Jamie Dick	Sandy Allison
----------------------------	------------	---------------

Iain Thomson accepted the position.

Vice Chair: Jamie Dick	Jackie Young	Iain Thomson
-------------------------------	--------------	--------------

Jamie Dick accepted the position.

Treasurer: Andrew Mackay	Iain Thomson	Jackie Young
---------------------------------	--------------	--------------

Andrew Mackay accepted the position but with /Donna Gilchrist continuing to undertake the day-to-day handling of the accounts under the supervision of the Community Council.

Secretary: Jackie Young	Andrew Mackay	Sandy Allison
--------------------------------	---------------	---------------

Jackie Young accepted the position but with Mary Goulder continuing to undertake the day-to-day secretarial duties.

Catherine MacDonald remains as an Associate Member,

Mary Goulder was asked to remain in post as **Minutes Secretary** with responsibility for correspondence shared with Secretary, and Donna Gilchrist was asked to remain in post as the day-to-day **Treasurer** responsible to Andrew Mackay. Mary Goulder and Donna Gilchrist accepted the posts. Iain Thomson then assumed the Chair to conduct the rest of this and the following monthly meeting.

Item 8. Any other competent business relevant to the AGM.

It was then proposed to co-opt Steven Maclean to the CC, proposed by Jackie Young and seconded by Iain Thomson. It is understood that the CC is at full complement and if so, SM will be appointed as an Associate Member. SM indicated he was happy to accept. MG to confirm status with the Ward Manager. **MG Action.**

Minutes approved 24/5/2023

There being no other relevant business this meeting closed at 8.10pm.