

Lairg Community Council

Minutes of meeting held in Lairg Community Centre on Wednesday 3rd August 2016 at 7.30pm

Present: Jeff Norrie, Chair (JN), Hector MacLennan, Treasurer (HM), Sandy Allison (SA), John Sutherland (JS)

Apologies: Andrew Mackay, Vice Chair (AMK), Iain Mackay (IM), Jackie Young (JY), Cllr Hugh Morrison (HMN)

Police Scotland: None present

Also present: Gary Thompson

Minutes Secretary: Mary Goulder (MG)

Item 1. Welcome/Apologies (as above)/Police report. Chair Jeff Norrie thanked those in attendance and confirmed that the meeting was indeed quorate. **There was no police report available.**

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

Item 3. Matters arising. (1) NC500. After two local meetings Lairg has withdrawn from the newly set up Heart of Sutherland Tourism (HOST) group. Some differences in approach had been identified and it became clear that for Lairg it would be more beneficial to promote its unique qualities independently. The thoughts of stakeholders within the Lairg area will now be canvassed through individual discussions, leading to collective consideration once this tourist season is over. An application is expected to be submitted to VisitScotland in February 2017. **(2)** SA confirmed he has had a meeting with Andy Mackay to present him with the gift voucher from Lairg CC in recognition of his work as Ward Manager (now retired). Andy expressed his thanks through SA and will be writing to the CC in due course.

Item 4. LDCI update. Detailed report received from the Development Officer which gave a list of all meetings recently attended and proposed along with updates on the various projects in which LDCI is engaged at present. These include: path upgrading at Church Hill woods, a clean-up day held in May, the proposed path to the station, community Broadband, Community Council website, and assistance to three local groups with funding applications to Stronger Sutherland. Larger projects ongoing include the Nursing Home, Social Enterprise, and Winterfest which this year is scheduled for 19th November. Further information on all of these may be obtained by contacting the Development Officer at the LDCI office.

Item 5. LCA update. The LCA report noted a healthy bank balance considering all the repairs and maintenance carried out through the last financial year with rental income continuing to increase each year. A Charities and Craft Sale has been scheduled for Saturday 5th November. The Directors noted that they were overwhelmed to receive a donation of £504.82 from the family of the late Lindsay Wilson of Dunfermline. Mr Wilson had been a regular visitor to Lairg for more than fifty years and in his memory the family wished that the donations received at his funeral should be given to Lairg Community Centre. It is understood that the LCA will be applying for funding to update the signage for the Centre.

Item 6. CALL update. Following the recent public meeting and emails from Emma Armstrong, the CC felt that positive steps had been taken to impress upon SSE the importance of the choice of the correct route for the transmission line between Lairg to Loch Buidhe sub-stations. It was agreed that the CC will approach SNH asking for a meeting to discuss the issues regarding the habitats of hen harriers and black-throated divers which must be considered along with effects on human habitations on the route. CC will write to SNH

asking for suitable dates, preferably by the end of August or early in September; CC will arrange and has offered to chair the meeting. **MG Action.**

Item 7. Falls of Shin update. It is understood that work is expected to commence by the end of this month or early in September.

Item 8 Financial report. (MG) Treasurer's Account balance stands at £3,248.66 which includes the annual grant from THC minus the insurance premium. Payments made in the last month were to LCA for room hires, Faclan Word Service, and Lairg Estate for rental of Lairg Tennis Courts. The Windfarm Account stands at £647.76 and the Project Account at £4.73.

Item 9. Planning applications. Only one relevant application for the erection of a general purpose agricultural building at Drumnahaving, Station Road. No objections were raised.

Item 10. Windfarms. Nothing to report.

Item 11. Correspondence. (1) Minutes sharing with MSP. A request has been received from the office of Gail Ross to be included in the circulation of CC minutes. This was approved although it was pointed out that now that the CC website is regularly updated by the LDCI Development Officer, the minutes are readily accessible to everyone. **MG Action.**

Item 12. Any other competent business. (1) Archiving of CC records. Cllr Farlow has indicated that provision exists to archive all CC records at Highland Archives in Inverness. Enquiries will be made as to how this can be achieved in order to relieve storage of back files with CC members etc. **MG Action.** (2) TECS. Heavy lorry traffic has caused the breaking away of the roadside and the emergence of potholes at the road junction south of Dalchork. SA will report to John Clark, THC CWO, Bonar Bridge. **SA Action.** (3) Sightlines for 20mph signs locally have been cleared by AMK; thanks were recorded to him. (4) Wreath for Remembrance Day. Choice of wreath was discussed and will now be ordered online with initial delivery to MG. **MG Action.** (5) The redundant signage for the old Vehicle Testing Station will be removed by SA. **SA Action.**

Item 15. Date and time of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th September 2016 in the Lairg Community Centre. The room is already booked.

Item 16. Lairg Windfarm Ltd – Lairg Community Fund. At a private meeting following the regular CC meeting, awards were made to Lairg Local History Society, £2000, with two micro grant awards made to Lairg Rovers Football Club, £250, and Lairg & District Community Initiative, £230.

Meeting closed at 9pm.