

## Lairg Community Council

### Minutes of meeting held in Lairg Community Centre on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 8.00pm

**Present:** Jeff Norrie, Chair (JN), Andrew Mackay, Vice Chair/Treasurer (AMK), Jackie Young, Secretary (JY), John Sutherland (JS)

**Apologies:** Sandy Allison (SA), Iain Mackay (IM), Louise Skinner (LS)

**Police Scotland:** None present

**Also present:** Highland Councillor Hugh Morrison (HMN), Magda MacDonald (MM), Steven MacLean (SM), Morven Munro (MM), Charlie Smith (CS) all LDCI, John Quinn

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

**Item 1. Welcome/Apologies (as above)/Police report.** Chair Jeff Norrie welcomed everyone thanking them for awaiting the later start of 8pm as this meeting followed a private annual review with Foundation Scotland regarding the Lairg Windfarm Fund. No police report available.

**Item 2. Adoption of Minutes of March meeting.** The Minutes of the March meeting were adopted as a true and accurate record. Proposed: John Sutherland; seconded: Jeff Norrie.

**Item 3 Matters arising. (1) Ferrycroft paths.** JN will continue to monitor this situation. Patience required as more felling and extraction continues. An all-purpose path is still expected to be in place at the end of the project. **Agenda item/JN Action.** **(2) Bird Hide.** CS has liaised with SSE regarding its 'Champion' scheme with a view to providing volunteer assistance to work on the paths and hide. JN will talk with SA regarding a possible time frame to utilise his services with his digger. JN will also contact FCS enquiring if a supply/delivery of crushed stones might be available from the nearby quarry. JQ advised that the flaps inside the hide let in rain water and a diverter is needed. JN and AMK will arrange a site visit for further assessment. HMN will check if path edges can be cut back by THC.

**JN/AMK/HMN Action.**

**Item 4. Suggestions re memorial seat/other ideas re the late Hector MacLennan.** Several suggestions have been received including a bench, a clock, the planting of a tree but the most favoured idea came from Hector's family to consider setting up a small trust fund to assist local young people with personal development. A worthwhile meaningful fund might help with educational benefits perhaps relating to crofting, forestry or in a more general way of helping within the community. More research and thought is required as to how this can be funded and operated. Discuss with ideas at next meeting. **Action All/Agenda item.**

**Item 5. LDCI update.** MM advised that the Board is currently focussing on five projects with the Care and Wellbeing Centre the main one at present. Local surveys and the housing report are completed with much information gathered from the community regarding what it hopes for from the project. It appears that both NHS and Scottish Government are very unlikely to support a traditional care/nursing home as both are now in favour of 'accommodation with care' schemes which are proving to be a more economical way forward while also allowing a certain degree of independence to those clients involved. Another meeting will be held within the coming weeks. LDCI was urged to ensure that all local healthcare workers are fully informed of the meeting and its proposals. The deadline for application to the Scottish Land Fund for site purchase is 12<sup>th</sup> June. It was stressed the NHS backing for the scheme is essential to a successful application. HMN offered to speak to David Alston, Head of NHS Highland. **HMN Action.** Members of the public are to be encouraged to speak directly to Magda or any LDCI Board member with comments etc. A

letter of support for the project has been received from Kinlochbervie CC as the location of such a facility in Lairg would be of great benefit to those living in north-west Sutherland. Church Hill Woodland. Two more volunteer working days will be arranged.

Lairg Asteroid. Exhibition starts on 5<sup>th</sup> May in Ferrycroft. LDCI is seeking to register the name Lairg Asteroid as a trademark to allow marketing and advertising.

Resilient Communities Scheme. Another meeting will be held to decide on the siting of the satellite telephone within the Community Centre; authorised people will have access to it. CS will send information to JN and AMK. **CS Action.** LDCI representatives left at this time.

**Item 6. CALL.** No new information available this month.

**Item 7. Falls of Shin update.** The project is understood to be on target for opening before long. Staff interviews are taking place.

**Item 8. Financial report.** (MG) The balance in the Treasurer's Account stands at £2,751.93. The Windfarm account balance is £667.76 with the Project Account unchanged at £4.73. JN and AMK are working with Bank of Scotland updating addresses etc. Signatories' information is now up to date. It was agreed that MG will contact John Forbes to ask if he is willing once again to carry out the audit of the CC accounts and prepare the submission to THC. **MG Action.**

**Item 9. Planning applications.** JN reported that once again the emailing of the Weekly Planning Applications Report has dried up with none received for a few weeks. HMN to chase again. **HMN Action.** As a result it would appear there are no relevant applications to consider this month.

**Item 10. Community Council vacancy.** No other person has been found as yet. CCs to continue to ask around and if a willing volunteer comes forward action can be taken with regard to co-option as soon as possible. **Action All.**

**Item 11. Windfarms.** Nothing new this month.

**Item 12. Correspondence.** (1) Relevant correspondence mostly circulated by email. (2) Letter of thanks received from Friends of Sutherland Veterans for donation by CC.

**Item 13. Any other competent business.** (1) JY asked about the CC Public Liability Insurance through THC as to whether it can cover events run by local groups. Policy to be checked; perhaps THC asked if not clear. **MG Action.** (2) TECs. Concern raised by a neighbour regarding overgrowing trees at the entrance to the Post Office garage at the top of Lairg. It was thought that Willie Henshaw may rent a shed here and he will be asked regarding ownership of the trees. **JS Action.** (3) Tennis courts. JQ reported that a choked drain is causing water to run on to the gravel and the courts. Drains on both sides of the courts need to be cleared. SA will be asked if he can deal with this and if not Crispin Cook will be asked if Lairg Estate can arrange the work. **JN Action.** (4) Report received that the lettering on the war memorial is in poor condition. HMN advised that THC has funding for such maintenance. He will provide email contact to MG. **HMN/MG Action.** (5) Cllr's report. Some road surfacing has been done in the area; HMN is urging action regarding Shinness. No progress made with request for toilet facility at Lairg Station. Timetable for the Durness bus, which calls at Lairg Station, is changing and new times will be advertised. LDCI to be asked about its Station Path project. **MG Action.** HMN advised that he may not be able to attend the May meeting as it falls the night before THC Election Day. CCs wished him good luck in the election, thanked him for his help and support through this term of office and wished him a successful outcome in the election. (6) JY reported that the street light opposite Costcutters has still not been fixed. AMK reported that the drainage issues at the cemetery are still causing disruption and distress to mourners with a pump running even through committal services. Water continues to run from the ground at the back of the cemetery even in fairly dry weather. **HMN Action on both issues.**

Minutes approved 03/05/2017

**Item 15. Date and time of next meeting.** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd May 2017 at 7.30pm in the Lairg Community Centre.

**Item 16. Lairg Windfarm Ltd – Lairg Community Fund.** In private session an application by LDCI was awarded £475 from the Micro Grant in respect of two applications regarding the Lairg Asteroid project. **MG Action.**

Meeting closed 10.10pm