

## Lairg Community Council

### Minutes of meeting held in Lairg Community Centre on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Jeff Norrie, Chair (JN), Hector MacLennan, Treasurer (HM), Andrew Mackay, Vice Chair (AMK), Sandy Allison (SA), John Sutherland (JS), Jackie Young (JY)

**Apologies:** Iain Mackay (IM)/George Farlow (GF)

**Police Scotland:** PCs Tracy Murray and Paul Whitehead

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

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

**Item 1. Welcome/Apologies (as above)/Police report.** Chair Jeff Norrie opened the meeting and invited the police officers to give their report. This listed ten incidents: two of speeding, two road collisions, two road traffic, two assistance/advice calls, one neighbours' dispute and one domestic. The officers were thanked for attending and left at 7.30pm.

**Item 2. Adoption of Minutes of November meetings.** The Minutes of the November meeting were adopted as a true and accurate record. Proposed: Andrew Mackay; seconded: Sandy Allison.

**Item 3. Matters arising.** (1) Dog waste. The Dog Warden was in the village recently. A visit every two months or so would maintain public awareness. Pavement and roadway between Ferrycroft and Ord Place are both badly affected by dog waste in spite of bins being in place. Ongoing issue – **agenda item.** (2) Ferrycroft paths. Still inaccessible to wheelchairs/buggies due to uneven surfaces and poor drainage including across pathways. It is understood there remains some harvesting to be done on completion of which the paths will be regraded.

**Agenda item.**

**Item 4. LDCI update.** No report available due to recent heavy workload for Winterfest and staff holidays.

**Item 5. LCA update.** Good progress was made leading to better understanding at a very productive meeting held last night with representatives from LCA, LDCI and Lairg CC. It was agreed to hold regular quarterly meetings as this is of benefit to all. The next is scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> March. The gym project has been mothballed at this stage. New gym facilities are now available in Tain and Golspie and it is felt that local interest has therefore waned. The SSE supported Resilience Scheme has stalled. Charlie Smith is checking out the possibilities for an SSE satellite phone installation. LDCI is to liaise with LCA regarding a hook-up point for a generator. Following a visit to Ardross Hall by SA with Sheila and Angela from LCA agreement has been reached to hang drapes in the hall to soften the acoustic. Timber, cloth and hooks will be sourced now and an indoor cherry-picker sought to deal with the high level work. LCA has a development plan indicating improvements over a three year period, with heating a main priority followed by acoustic issues. The present heating system is ineffective. It is hoped to have the drapes in place by the end of the year. A loop system for hearing aid users is also being installed. The possibility of lowering the height of the ceiling in the main hall is under consideration, for both heating and acoustic reasons; an acoustic feasibility study may be commissioned. LCA is in discussion with HighLife Highland regarding signage for the library – to be in keeping with the building. Owing to the newly agreed quarterly meeting schedule the LCA update will now be removed from the CC agenda. **MG Action.**

**Item 6. CALL update.** The next scheduled meeting, with SNH but not SSE, will be on 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 7pm. MP Paul Monaghan will attend and questions should be submitted ahead of the meeting to his secretary.

**Item 7. Falls of Shin update.** Ongoing; work proceeding well.

**Item 8 Financial report.** (MG) Treasurer's Account balance stands at £2837.76. The Windfarm Account balance stands at £167.76 with the Project Account unchanged at £4.73.

**Item 9. Planning applications.** JN confirmed that the weekly report is now coming directly to him. Nothing relevant this month.

**Item 10. Community Council vacancy.** The co-option of Louise Skinner was proposed by JN, seconded by AMK and unanimously agreed. Louise accepted and was welcomed to the CC. As a young mum much involved in the local community she will be a great asset to the CC. This brings the number of CCs to full complement.

**Item 11. Windfarms.** Nothing new or relevant.

**Item 12. Correspondence.** (1) Relevant correspondence mostly circulated by email. (2) Agreed that the level of the Microgrant will remain as it is but consideration to a change may be made next spring. It was also agreed that email decisions on grant applications can lead to undue pressure and should be avoided unless the circumstances are exceptional. (3) Saltire Awards. CC has been asked if awards could be presented at a CC meeting, perhaps in February. An agenda item if so. **JN Action.**

**Item 13. Any other competent business.** (1) Graveyard drainage – HMN will keep pushing for this to be done to a satisfactory level. (2) Bird Hide. No-one is clear as to who actually owns the ground that this is on nor which organisation is responsible for it. HMN and AMK will try to ascertain from THC and Ian Paterson (retired Ranger). **HMN/AMK Action.** (4) Lairg in Bloom advised to apply to Ward Manager for £400 from Ward Discretionary Budget. **JY Action.** (5) JN will contact the Lairg Sailing Club for an update regarding its feasibility study funding application. **JN Action.** (6) Street light out in Ord Place at end of the bridge, also the poor condition of the road into Ord Place was noted. HMN will report. **HMN Action.** (7) Toilet facility at Lairg Station. Meeting called for next week; portaloo suggested for next season as a trial. Facility is required year-round. (8) Sections of road surface in Shinness very poor, now corrugated. **HMN Action.** (9) Crash barrier at Dalmichie in need of attention. **HMN Action.** (10) Thanks were noted for Alex Murray, Keepers Cottage Lairg Estate for cutting back trees at roadside and signage.

**Item 14. Date and time of next meeting.** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017 in the Lairg Community Centre. The room will now be booked for next year's sessions.

**Item 15. Lairg Windfarm Ltd – Lairg Community Fund.** There were no applications to discuss.

Meeting closed 8.55pm