

Lairg Community Council

Minutes of meeting held in Lairg Community Centre on Wednesday 1st February 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Jeff Norrie, Chair (JN), Andrew Mackay, Vice Chair (AMK), John Sutherland (JS), Jackie Young (JY), Louise Skinner (LS)

Apologies: Iain Mackay (IM), Sandy Allison (SA)

Police Scotland: PCs Dave Thompson and Steve MacKenzie

Also present: Highland Councillor Hugh Morrison (HMN), Barbara and Mollie Clyne

Minutes Secretary: Mary Goulder (MG)

Item 1. Welcome/Apologies (as above)/Police report. Chair Jeff Norrie welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2017. PC Thompson gave the police report which listed twenty-four incidents – nine traffic offences of which most were for speeding, two thefts, one strangles, six advice calls, one suspicious vehicle/person and one of counterfeit money, both notes and cheques, with two successful detections made. Asked if the officers were aware of any upcoming changes to the penalties for using a mobile phone while driving, both stated they had not been advised of anything to date. PCs were advised of the 8pm start in March.

Item 2. Moment of reflection for the late Hector MacLennan. At the request of the Chair one minute's silence was observed for reflection on the sad and unexpected passing last month of Hector who had served on the CC since its inception. He had proved to be a faithful and diligent councillor, holding office for more than one term. His death is a great loss to the community. CCs were asked to bring their ideas for commemorating Hector's contribution to the community to the next meeting. A card of condolence will be sent to Margaret MacLennan. **Action All/MG.**

Item 3. Saltire Awards. Some confusion had arisen regarding the presentation tonight of the Saltire Awards. Organiser Nicki Harrison, VG-ES, had advised the Chair that it had not been possible to bring the recipients to the meeting tonight. However Barbara and Mollie Clyne had received an email saying they should attend. This was a disappointing mix-up as Mollie has now been waiting some time to be presented with her three awards earned through voluntary work in the Library over the last two years. She also completed a sponsored walk which raised £272 for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Barbara will contact Nicki with a view to a presentation at the next CC meeting on 1st March. If the awards can be available and the recipients attend then JN could make the presentation if Nicki is unavailable. Barbara or Nicki should advise JN accordingly.

Item 4. Adoption of Minutes of December meeting. The Minutes of the December meeting were adopted as a true and accurate record. Proposed: Andrew Mackay; seconded: Jackie Young.

Item 5. Matters arising. (1) Dog waste. The situation appears somewhat better possibly due to the appearance in the village of the Dog Warden. It is hoped that this can continue on a regular basis. (2) Ferrycroft paths. No change since last month. The paths are still inaccessible to wheelchairs/buggies due to uneven surfaces and poor drainage including across pathways. **Agenda item/JN Action.**

Item 6. LDCI update. A business plan has been received by the CC from the Project Officer. Much of it refers to historical LDCI information but little is included with regard to future planning, in particular how the organisation foresees its financial stability. A meeting has been arranged to discuss with consultants ideas for a feasibility study concerning the proposed Health and Wellbeing Centres in both Lairg and Bonar Bridge. The feeling of the meeting was firmly behind the provision of a community run care home in Lairg with or

without ancillary health services which could be sited in Bonar Bridge close to Migdale Hospital. HMN suggested that the CC/LDCI should liaise with the CCs on the north and west coasts as he believes they would strongly support the plan for a care home in Lairg.

Item 7. CALL. Two meetings are planned, one on 3rd February with MP Paul Monaghan and the second which he will chair on 10th February, with SSE.

Item 8. Falls of Shin update. Ongoing; work proceeding well.

Item 9. Financial report. (MG) Treasurer's Account balance stands at £2600.32. The Windfarm Account balance stands at £1167.76 with reflects the receipt of the latest tranche of funding from Foundation Scotland for the Micro Grant Scheme. The Project Account remains unchanged at £4.73. The vacancy for Treasurer resulted in Andrew Mackay accepting the post, nominally, as well as that of Vice Chair. Proposed: Jeff Norrie; seconded: Jackie Young. AM will complete the paperwork with regard to changing signatory information with the Bank of Scotland; JN and SA will sign accordingly.

Item 10. Planning applications. Nothing relevant this month.

Item 11. Community Council vacancy. Briefly following the co-option of LS in December the CC was at full complement but due to the recent loss of Hector MacLennan there is once again a vacancy. A couple of names were put forward. LS will speak to one to ascertain if she is interested and will advise MG. If she agrees this can be ratified at the March meeting. Failing that CCs are encouraged to consider alternative candidates for discussion at that time.

LS Action.

Item 12. Windfarms. Strath Tirry. Letter received from REG Windpower with details of the current plans for the project. CC will respond asking to be kept in the loop. **MG Action.**

Item 13. Correspondence. (1) Relevant correspondence mostly circulated by email. (2) Screen Machine. Regional Screen Scotland wrote to advise of their plans for a major refit for the Machine and also with a proposal to make changes to the service offered to communities which could include the Machine visiting areas for up to four days at time. This could afford scope to local groups to offer complementary ranges of screening on DVD or Blu-Ray, perhaps even the setting up of a local film club. The letter will be circulated to various local groups and organisations and encouraging the uptake of this offer. **MG Action.** (3) Friends of Sutherland Veterans has written requesting the CC make its annual donation to the Flag Raising Ceremony to be held in June. £50 donation approved. **MG Action.**

Item 14. Any other competent business. (1) HMN reported that the cemetery drainage issues and their resolution remain ongoing. (2) It has not been possible to ascertain just who is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the Bird Hide and its access. The track needs clearing and new scalplings. Help with costs could come from the Ward Discretionary Budget after 1st April. AMK will make enquiries and get costings. **AMK Action/Agenda item.** (3) Lairg in Bloom's application to the WDB has been approved for payment in April. (4) Street lights out in Manse Brae and at the bridge will be checked by HMN. **HMN Action.** (5) The issue of toilet provision at Lairg Station remains with HMN still trying to liaise with the appropriate department. **HMN Action.** (6) LS reported that the paths in and around Glenburn have not been cleared of leaves and as result are dangerously slippery in bad weather. **HMN Action.**

Item 15. Date and time of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 1st March 2017 in the Lairg Community Centre. This meeting will commence at 8pm following a private meeting at 7pm for the CC with Foundation Scotland.

Item 16. Lairg Windfarm Ltd – Lairg Community Fund. In private session an application by LDCI to the Micro Grant Scheme was awarded £250 towards running costs. LDCI's application to the main grant was deferred till March pending further information.

Meeting closed 9.10pm