

Lairg Community Council

Minutes of meeting held in Lairg Community Centre on Wednesday 6th June 2018 at 7.30pm

Present: Jeff Norrie, Chair (JN), Andrew Mackay, Vice Chair/Treasurer (AMK), John Sutherland (JS), Jamie Dick (JD), Sandy Allison (SA)

Apologies: Jackie Young, Secretary (JY), Eilidh Price (EP) Louise Skinner (LS)

Police Scotland: PCs Dave Thompson (DT) and Alex Smyth (AS)

Minutes Secretary: Mary Goulder (MG)

Item 1. Welcome/Apologies (as above) /Police report Jeff Norrie, Chair, welcomed all to this meeting which followed the AGM. EP submitted her apologies by email but also her resignation from the CC as she is moving to London to take up a new job. In her message she thanked the CC, stating that she had enjoyed her time on the Council, and wishing the CC success in the future. On behalf of the CC, JN recorded his sadness that EP was leaving but wished her a good future in her career and the post in London. **Police report:** eight incidents reported in the last month comprising one of disorder and seven road traffic incidents. These were made up by one RTC, three fixed penalties and three other road traffic speeding offences which will be going to court. The regular warning regarding bogus workmen was discussed. To be legitimate all such workers should hold a Peddler's Certificate and no payment should be required on the day. Any suspicious callers should be reported to the police and residents should remain vigilant at all times, checking property when any such incidents occur. Sub-standard work can be reported to the police but also to Trading Standards. SA reported that he had been early on the scene of a traffic accident on the Struie on 5th June and was appalled at the length of time the emergency control centre took to ascertain the location. After discussion it was agreed that the CC will write to Police Scotland and Scottish Ambulance with this important feedback. **MG Action.**

Item 2. Adoption of Minutes of May meeting. The Minutes of the May meeting were adopted as a true and accurate record. Proposed: Andrew Mackay; seconded: John Sutherland.

Item 3. Matters arising. (1) Waste ground by Masonic Hall. No further action on this. **(2) LCA acoustics,** this will be an agenda item at the upcoming meeting at 8pm on 11th June with CC, LCA and LDCI present to discuss local issues. **(3) Sailing Club update.** Alasdair Marshall had kindly attended prior to the AGM to update the CC on the current status of the club. Various difficulties have been faced in the past two years with several directors standing down and with a lack of new people to take over. The feasibility study into the proposed bunkhouse was not favourable to proceeding with the project. The funding for the study was paid to the consultants. Boats have been repaired and are in use with the club now operating on Saturdays. Recently sixteen children took part in one session. Parents must attend to look after and supervise their own children. The CC thanked Mr Marshall for coming in person to explain the present situation and progress of the club.

Item 4. Public toilets update. A site visit with THC has been arranged with CC and LDCI representation, for 7pm on 11th June ahead of the meeting in the hall (see Item 3 (2) above).

Item 5. Bird Hide update – volunteers/date. SA has not yet sought a quote for the hire of a sprayer for oil based Cuprinol. LDCI has made application for funding to purchase the materials. Plan for date etc to be decided once these issues are complete. **SA/AMK Action**

Item 6. LDCI update. JN reported that application for funding is being sought with regard to the station footpath project. The meeting with NHS regarding the Care & Wellbeing Project is delayed till the autumn.

Item 7. CALL. It is understood that the final route for the pylon line has been decided. Separate planning applications will be made for the pylon line and the sub-station at Dalchork.

Item 8. Financial report. Treasurer's account balance stands at £2,534.46 reflecting outgoing payments in the last month which included the fee to re-register the domain name of the website. The Windfarm account balance is currently £1,026.00. The Project account remains at £4.73. As stated at the AGM the audited accounts will now be submitted to THC to trigger payment of the annual grant.

Item 9. Planning applications. None relevant locally. Cllr Munro will be asked to request that the Weekly Planning Report will now be emailed to AMK as Chair. **LM Action.**

Item 10. Windfarms. SA understands an extension of twelve or fifteen turbines is planned for the Lairg Windfarm.

Item 11. Correspondence. All email correspondence had been circulated prior to the meeting. Invoice received from Lairg Estate for annual rent payment for the tennis courts. Email from the Factor of Lairg Estate regarding the drainage issues at the tennis courts. It would appear that the French drain, an integral part of the tennis courts, is failing possibly due to vegetation or gravel choking it. He states that this is the responsibility of the CC as tenants of the site. SA is prepared to attempt to fix the problem but fears that all the drainage in that area could be linked, perhaps to the issues currently evident in Main Street. SA will discuss again with John Clark, TECS. Cllr Munro also to be asked to enquire into this and to advise the CC of the ongoing issues at Lochside. The current dry weather has eased all such issues but obviously this will change when the weather does. SA will not take action without the support of a THC representative. **SA/LM Action.**

Item 12. Highland Councillor's report. In the absence of Cllr Munro reference was made to an email, sent to LM, regarding a proposal for a cycle track from Lairg out to the bird hide on the Tongue road. Many more cyclists and motor vehicles are using this route with traffic expected to greatly increase due to timber extraction and the construction of the sub-station at Dalchork. The provision of a cycle track would greatly enhance safety and also encourage visitors to the area. CC wishes to express its approval for the idea. **LM Action.** (2) Potholes. It is understood that an app exists to allow the public to report potholes direct to THC. LM to be asked for details and contacts. **MG/LM Action.**

Item 13. Any other competent business. (1) CC has been asked if it can help to discourage people from feeding the birds on the loch. (2) CC has heard that driving tests in Lairg are to be discontinued. The nearest test centre will then be in Golspie.

Item 14. Date and time of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th September at 7.30pm in the Lairg Community Centre.

Item 15. Lairg Windfarm Ltd – Lairg Community Fund. Application by Lairg Gala Week to the main grant for £500 was approved to help purchase a new PA system. The equipment should be made available for hire by other local groups. A micro grant application by LDCI was awarded £250 towards the costs of materials to be used to upgrade the condition of the bird hide. Application by Lairg Crofters Show received a micro grant of £250 towards printing costs and application by Lairg Learning Centre received £250 towards the cost of PVG courses for staff.

Meetings closed 9.30pm