

Lairg Community Council

Minutes of meeting held in Lairg Community Centre on Wednesday 7th March 2018 at 8pm

Present: Jeff Norrie, Chair (JN), Andrew Mackay, Vice Chair/Treasurer (AMK), Jackie Young, Secretary (JY), John Sutherland (JS), Sandy Allison (SA), Louise Skinner (LS), Eilidh Price (EP), Jamie Dick (JD)

Apologies: Highland Councillor Linda Munro (LM), Project Officer LDCI (MM)

Police Scotland: PCs Ian Forbes (IF) and Tracy Murray (TM)

Minutes Secretary: Mary Goulder (MG)

Item 1. Welcome/Apologies (as above)/Police report. This meeting followed a private session with Carol Elliot of Foundation Scotland to conduct the annual review of the Lairg Windfarm Ltd Community Fund. The review passed satisfactorily with no unfavourable issues raised by CC or FS. A separate minute will be filed regarding the private meeting. The police officers attended at the start of that meeting but their report is noted here. It comprised twenty-seven incidents in the last month: 6 road traffic of which 4 were speeding offences, 1 careless driving and 1 HGV exceeding driving hours; 2 advice calls, 2 false calls, 1 vulnerable person, 10 police information, 1 disorder, 1 assault, 1 child protection, and 3 domestic incidents.

Item 2. Adoption of Minutes of February meeting. The Minutes of the February meeting were adopted as a true and accurate record. Proposed: Sandy Allison; seconded: Jackie Young.

Item 3. Matters arising. (1) Horse posters. Reports received of further incidences of horse dung on the Ferrycroft paths. JY will ensure the posters are clearly displayed. LM to be asked to check with Matt Dent, THC Access Officer, to see if there is any further action possible.

(2) Waste ground by Masonic Hall. AMK still to make enquiries as to who owns this ground. **AMK Action.** **(3) Water issues at Lochside.** LM was unable to attend tonight due to THC commitments and weather conditions. She has raised this matter with the appropriate THC department and will report back asap. **LM Action.** **(4) Archiving.** JD has removed the old filing cabinet from the Community Centre office. JN and JD will assess the contents to decide on relevant documents to save and will then arrange the destruction of the remaining paperwork. Documents being retained will then be passed to MG to add to the archive she holds for CC. **JN/JD Action.**

Item 4. Bird Hide update – volunteers/date. Brought forward from agenda late last year. A clean-up/repair day will have to wait for better weather. Agenda item for May meeting. **MG Action.**

Item 5. Discuss ideas re the late Hector MacLennan. It will not be possible to operate a memorial fund through Foundation Scotland utilising Community Benefit from the Lairg Windfarm. JN will discuss with the family again if they would be happy with another form of memorial or should the matter rest. **JN Action.**

Item 6. LDCI update. Email report received from Project Officer who is attending a course relevant to the delivery of mixed-use housing such as is hoped will be incorporated into the Care and Wellbeing Centre project. (1) Care and Well-Being Centre: a drop-in coffee morning was held on 10th February to celebrate the community acquisition of the former Sutherland Arms Hotel site. Many positive ideas were received from the good number of attendees with more people joining the Working Group. (2) LDCI is awaiting funding for the feasibility study regarding the Police Station project. (3) Lairg Through Time Bus Shelter. Funding application has been submitted to the Heritage Lottery. Outcome expected in the coming

weeks. (4) Ord Place carvings and sitting area. Successful funding application to Sustrans (ArtRoots Fund) will see LDCI working with the Forestry Commission and the Primary School. It is hoped to complete the project by summer 2018.

Item 7. CALL. SSE's planning application for the pylon line is expected in May/June. Final route appears to be decided despite remaining local misgivings.

Item 8. Financial report. Treasurer's account balance stands at £2,196.25 reflecting outgoing payments in the last month. The windfarm account currently has a nil balance though the next tranche of Micro Grant Fund is due imminently. Project account remains unchanged at £4.73. All Community Councils have been advised of the drastic budget cuts by THC which will reduce the annual grants by 50%. Lairg will receive £521.66 to conduct the business of the CC for the year 2018-19. Very serious concerns as to the ongoing feasibility of CCs if there is insufficient funding to carry out meetings and act on statutory and local matters. Cllr Munro to be advised of the major issues this will involve. Agenda item for April meeting. **Agenda item/MG Action.**

Item 9. Planning applications. None relevant locally.

Item 10. Windfarms. Brief discussion regarding SSE proposed development at Creag Riabhach. No comments required at this stage.

Item 11. Correspondence. Online Safety Campaign information will be forwarded to Lairg Learning Centre and the Library. All email correspondence had been circulated prior to the meeting. No actions raised. **MG Action.**

Item 12. Any other competent business. General Data Protection Regulations. Raised at the private session ahead of this meeting, it was noted that recent legislative changes mean that CCs are obliged to have permission to hold any personal information on members or any other individuals in contact with the CC. This includes any email/ mailing addresses, telephone numbers, etc. CCs should therefore send a brief email to MG giving this permission. **Action all.**

Item 13. Date and time of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th April at 7.30pm in the Lairg Community Centre.

Item 14. Lairg Windfarm Ltd – Lairg Community Fund. There were no applications this month.

Meetings closed 9pm.