

Lairg Community Council

Minutes of meeting held in Lairg Community Centre on Wednesday 3rd May 2017 at 7.30pm

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

Apologies: Iain Mackay (IM), Highland Councillor Hugh Morrison (HMN)

Police Scotland: None present (report later received by email)

Minutes Secretary: Mary Goulder (MG)

Item 1. Welcome/Apologies (as above)/Police report. Chair Jeff Norrie welcomed the members of the Community Council; no general public present. No police officer attended but the monthly report was received by email later in the evening. This indicated little of consequence, comprising one domestic incident, one wildlife crime, two road traffic related incidents with other minor calls in relation to a medical matter, a routine warrant and false calls.

Item 2. Adoption of Minutes of April meeting. The Minutes of the April meeting were adopted as a true and accurate record. Proposed: Andrew Mackay; seconded: Jackie Young.

Item 3 Matters arising. (1) Ferrycroft paths. CC noted that the paths have been made user-friendly for all allowing for wheelchair and pushchair access. It is understood that there may be further path work done once final timber extraction is complete. JN will continue to monitor. **Agenda item/JN Action.** (2) **Bird Hide.** AMK visited the site to assess access difficulties and reported maintenance issues. Paths are overgrown, now much narrower than initially with at least two wet sections. SA is prepared to help with his digger and placing of gravel; a tractor barrow would be the best machine for this. SSE might be prepared to take this on and provide volunteers for the cutting back of the bushes and painting of the building. A weatherproof product would be most suitable to reduce future maintenance. The addition of flaps to prevent rain ingress at the viewing openings would also be beneficial. JN will liaise with Charlie Smith regarding what help SSE can give and also discuss with FCS if it would donate the gravel for the path. THC roadman might be able to cut back the overgrowth at the start of the access from the road. **Agenda item/AMK/JN Action.** (3) **Overgrown trees.** Enquires ongoing through the Post Office as to who owns this land and is responsible for the trees at the entrance to the garage at the top of the village. Await outcome and discuss further at June meeting. **Agenda item.** (4) **Tennis courts.** Lairg Estate Factor to be asked about possible drainage clearance - concern re an underground drain which may be causing the problems. **MG Action.**

Item 4. Suggestions re memorial for the late Hector MacLennan. JN has talked with the family who are keen to see some form of Fund established which would benefit local young people seeking education/personal development opportunities. Any such fund would be relatively small, perhaps of one award of £250 per year. It is hoped that this could be funded through the Lairg Wind Farm and run for the remaining life of that fund. Terms and conditions, for example the eligible age group etc, would be clearly established at the outset. JN will discuss the proposals with Foundation Scotland to seek approval from the Wind Farm developer. **JN Action.**

Item 5. LDCI update. No report available – it was understood that the Project Officer is deeply involved in the setting up this week of the Lairg Asteroid Exhibition which opens on Friday in Ferrycroft and will run throughout the summer.

Item 6. CALL. No new report received from the group this month. It is understood that CALL continues to campaign for the chosen outcome.

Item 7. Falls of Shin update. The new visitor centre will hold an ‘Open Day’ event on Saturday 13th May. Local people may apply for tickets to KOSDT. Shuttle buses will run from Lairg to minimise traffic.

Item 8. Financial report. (MG) The balance in the Treasurer’s Account stands at £2596.58. The Windfarm account balance is £322.41 with the Project Account unchanged at £4.73. JN and AMK continue to work with Bank of Scotland updating addresses for correspondence and on the Internet banking statements. The end of year audited accounts were presented and adopted. John Forbes was warmly thanked for once again providing this service to the CC. THS Ward Manager will be approached to establish if the approved accounts may be submitted now or only after the AGM in June. **MG Action.**

Item 9. Planning applications. The weekly list is still not coming to JN. This will be chased up again after the Local Council Election is over (tomorrow).

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. If there is still no volunteer after the summer recess the CC will advertise locally to seek another member. **Action All.**

Item 11. Windfarms. Letter received from Scottish Government regarding Caplich. Reply will be sent reiterating CC opinion already submitted. Also update of CC contact information will be given. **MG Action.**

Item 12. Correspondence. (1) Relevant correspondence mostly circulated by email. (2) Letter of thanks received from Lairg Primary School Head Teacher re Wind Farm grant. (3) Invoice received from THC for rates for Bird Hide. **MG Action.** (4) Letter of congratulations to be sent to Marlyn Price, Chair Lairg History Society, on the production of their excellent book. ‘The History of Settlement in Lairg’. **MG Action.**

Item 13. Any other competent business. (1) Concern raised that the District Nurse service will be based in Golspie instead of within the Surgery in Lairg. It is essential that this service is maintained for local residents; NHS Highland will be asked to confirm that this will be the case. (2) Play equipment. Equipment at Ferrycroft and in Ord Place is in poor condition, rusting and unsafe. The zip wire at Ferrycroft is not high enough to allow for clearance when used. THC Ward Manager to be asked who is responsible for maintenance and also if the equipment previously held in Brora for use in Lairg was ever used/is still there. (3) Playgroup. It is understood that the Playgroup Assistant is to be withdrawn from Lairg Playgroup at the start of the school holidays. This weekly group is well attended, caters for children of up to 3 years, and draws attendances from the wider area surrounding the village as well as from the village itself. LS to provide a contact to MG. (4) Slow Sign. A ‘Children Playing – Slow Down’ sign requested for the roads at Ferrycroft. (5) Forestry. The lack of replanting on many cleared forestry areas was raised. FCS should be invited to September meeting discuss details of replanting plans. JN to give contact to MG. **MG/LS/JN Action.**

Item 15. Date and time of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th June 2017 at 7.30pm in the Lairg Community Centre. The evening will begin with the AGM before continuing with the monthly meeting.

Item 16. Lairg Windfarm Ltd – Lairg Community Fund. In private session an application by Lairg Primary School Parent Council was awarded £2,000 in respect of application for assistance with costs of the school trip to Loch Inch Outdoor Centre. Foundation Scotland will be advised. **MG Action.**

Meeting closed 9.35pm