

## Lairg Community Council

### Minutes of meeting held in Lairg Community Centre on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 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)

**Police Scotland:** PC Angus Morrison

**Also present:** Highland Councillor Hugh Morrison (HMN)

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

**Item 1. Welcome/Apologies (as above)/Police report.** Chair Jeff Norrie opened the meeting and expressed condolences from the CC to MG on her recent bereavement. The Police report listed one road accident, two advice calls, one vulnerable person call and one speeding incident. Apologies were made to the officers as the CC meeting date this month had been changed resulting in no-one being at the hall last week.

**Item 2. Adoption of Minutes of September and October meetings.** The Minutes of the September meeting were adopted as a true and accurate record. Proposed: Hector MacLennan; seconded: Jackie Young. The Minutes of the October meeting were also adopted; proposed by Jeff Norrie and seconded by Hector MacLennan. The October meeting was not quorate therefore several matters were held over to this meeting.

**Item 3. Matters arising. (1)** JN advised there is new access information for the CC website; he will email details to MG/any CC member who wishes it. **(2)** The deadline for the questionnaire from THC regarding possible charges for use of toilet facilities has now passed. However it was agreed to write to THC supporting the idea, in principal, of a low admission fee for public conveniences, e.g. 20p, but that in the case of the Lairg facility the fabric of the building is in such poor shape that no charge could possibly be made meantime. THC will be urged to take action to improve the condition of the building. **MG Action.** **(3)** TECS issues: Water lying on local roads will remain as an action point for HMN to discuss with John Clark, Community Works Officer (CWO). The problems with dog waste will also be raised again with the Dog Warden and retained as an **agenda item**. The difficulties with the Ferrycroft paths will also **remain on the agenda**. Overgrowth around approach signs to the village needs to be cut back. Drainage issues at Lairg cemetery to be rechecked. Missing wheelie bins at more than one location to be investigated. **HMN Action.**

**Item 4. LDCI update.** AGM was held recently with new office bearers appointed. Project Officer gave an excellent presentation on the past, present and future of LDCI. Copy available from JN or LDCI.

**Item 5. LCA update.** No report received or attendance made. AGM has been held. A healthy financial situation was reported. Improvements planned include dealing with the acoustics problems in the main hall with a working loop system being in place. SA has proposed a visit to Ardross Hall which has dealt with similar problems effectively for low costs. Gym proposals seem to be stuck; with a new facility opened in Tain perhaps it is no longer a viable project here. LDCI and LCA should be encouraged to discuss this further. CC will offer any help it can give to help liaison between local groups. **MG Action.**

**Item 6. CALL update.** The meeting with SSE last month clashed with the CC meeting. SNH also attended the SSE public meeting. MP was present and chaired the meeting. Community feeling is that SSE continues to ignore public opinion. Monitor and await further updates from CALL chair.

**Item 7. Falls of Shin update.** Ongoing; work proceeding well. It is understood that a charging point for electric cars will be installed.

**Item 8 Financial report.** (MG) Treasurer's Account balance stands at £2884.76. The Windfarm Account balance stands at £167.76 with the Project Account unchanged at £4.73.

**Item 9. Planning applications.** JN reported that once again the weekly notifications are not coming to him. **HMN Action.**

**Item 10. Community Council vacancy.** One vacancy exists at present with the possibility of another arising in the New Year. SA made one suggestion and will follow up to see if the person will consider co-option. **SA Action.**

**Item 11. Windfarms.** General discussion only. Projects in Altnaharra to be monitored in case any community benefit might apply to Lairg.

**Item 12. Correspondence.** (1) To assist with the running of Winterfest the CC will make the application for use of the school kitchen and dining room that day; this will result in a saving of £60 to the organisers. (2) The lack of Internet connection in Shinness and the resultant community activity was noted. This will be passed to LDCI. **JN Action.**

**Item 13. Any other competent business.** (1) Archiving of CC records. MG will enquire of LCA if there is any storage/cupboard space which could be rented by CC for this purpose. **MG Action.** (2) Library signage. Highlife Highland hopes to position three signs outside and five inside the community centre. (3) HMN stated that to the best of his knowledge no police station closures are anticipated in these northern areas however Inverness Fire Control Room will close next month. (4) Bird hide. JY reported that the approach road to the hide is seriously overgrown and the path is underwater in winter. HMN to ascertain who has this responsibility. **HMN Action.** (5) Visit Scotland/NC500 Roadshow will be in Lairg on 29<sup>th</sup> November. Businesses may book meetings with officials. It is hoped that a CC representative will attend.

**Item 14. Date and time of next meeting.** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016 in the Lairg Community Centre. The room is already booked.

**Item 15. Lairg Windfarm Ltd – Lairg Community Fund.** At a private meeting following the regular CC meeting, awards were made to LDCI for £1750 towards the Asteroid Project information panels; LDCI £2,000 towards business plan and feasibility study for the Care and Wellbeing Centre project. From the Micro Grant Scheme an award was approved in principle to Sutherland Sessions for £250, pending a further input of funding from the developer.

Meeting closed at 9.55pm.