

## Minutes approved 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016

### Text of draft Mins Lairg CC 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Held in the conservatory, Lairg Community Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Chair Jeff Norrie (JN), Treasurer Hector MacLennan (HM)

Also present: Highland Councillor Hugh Morrison (HMN), Sheena Skinner (SS), Sanna MacLeod (SM)

Apologies: Vice Chair Andrew Mackay (AM), Iain Mackay (IM), Secretary Jackie Young (JY), John Sutherland (JS), Sandy Allison (SA) attending the SSE meeting in adjoining room; PC Angus Morrison (8.10pm)

Minutes Secretary: Mary Goulder (MG)

**Item 1.** Welcome/Apologies (as above)/Police report. Chair Jeff Norrie opened the meeting but noted it was not quorate. On the advice of Cllr Morrison it was agreed that a short meeting would go ahead but that no regular business could be conducted decisions taken. Therefore several items from the agenda would be carried forward to the next meeting. At this time there was no police representative present. 8.10pm Police report – PC Morrison advised of two advice calls, one breach of the peace, one drugs related offence, one neighbour dispute, one domestic incident, one road traffic accident, and one missing person report (later traced).

**Items 2 & 3.** Adoption of September Minutes/ Matters arising. Held over.

**Item 4.** LDCI update. Three funding applications have been submitted. Tenders from consultants have been received and will be assessed in the coming week. Quotation has been received from the surveyors for input into the Scottish Land Fund and Rural Housing Fund applications. Once all funding is in place consultants will be employed to conduct a feasibility study and prepare a five year business plan, also surveyors to carry out the survey for assisted care housing and site inspection/valuation. All this work is scheduled to be completed by the end of March 2017.

Winterfest 2016. On tract with funding secured, over 40 stalls now booked, Facebook page set up, advertising materials being produced. Asteroid exhibition. It is hoped to open this at Winterfest and continue for the week following. Funding applications have been made including one to cover the expenses of a community worker to work with the primary school children. In the future LDCI would like to create a permanent home for the exhibition.

Central Sutherland Tourism Group. Over the next month the thoughts of stakeholders within the Lairg area will be gathered through individual discussions and collective consideration working towards creating a tourist vision for Lairg, focussing on its traditional strengths and perhaps building on the Lairg Asteroid story to attract potential visitors, including those following the NC 500. A funding application will be submitted to Visit Scotland in February 2017 with match funding also sought from the local windfarm community funds.

**Item 5.** LCA update. No report available.

**Item 6.** CALL. A public meeting called by SSE including CALL, SNH and local interested parties took place in the adjoining meeting room with a large attendance which included Community Councillor Sandy Allison. That meeting finished at the same time as the CC and therefore no report from it was available.

**Item 7.** Falls of Shin update. Construction continues on site.

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**Item 8.** Financial report. The Treasurer's account balance stands at 2996.75; Windfarm account at 167.76 and Project account at 4.73.

**Item 9.** Planning applications. Nothing relevant.

**Item 10.** Future meeting dates. Although it was felt that this discussion should be left until a quorate meeting it was apparent that a decision had to be made regarding the next few months in light of the lack of decision making this month. Therefore those present agreed to hold a November meeting, but one week later than usual, followed by the regular December meeting. In 2017 there will be no meetings in January, July or August although it was noted that if circumstances dictate the CC will be flexible on dates.

**Item 11.** Community Council vacancy. This item held over until November. As made obvious by tonight's meeting it is important to fill the vacancy quickly and also to encourage all members to attend whenever possible to avoid meetings not being quorate.

**Item 12.** Windfarms. Nothing new.

**Item 13.** Correspondence. (1) CC contact. Secretary to check that CC website and email address are currently listed with THC as contact details. **MG Action.** (2) THC Public Convenience Charging Questionnaire. It was noted that the deadline for responses has now passed however this was the first CC meeting since the questionnaire was received. It was agreed to reply anyway but with a covering letter deploring the current condition of the building in which the Lairg facility is situated. Although the best attempts are made to keep the interior clean, the fabric of the building is in very poor condition. This presents an exceedingly bad impression on anyone attempting to use the facility and to consider any charge at all for its use is out of the question until it can be improved. **MG Action.**

BT phone boxes. JN/HMN to forward correspondence to MG who will then write to Planning Dept which is handling local objections. **JN/HMN/MG Action.**

**Item 14.** Any other competent business. (1) Records archiving. Enquiry to be made of the LCA to establish if there is any available storage space in the Hall. **MG Action.** (2) HMN advised of two jobs being created locally at the Lairg Depot of the Roads Dept. These will be advertised on myjobscotland website. SM will help with publicising details of application. (3) HMN noted the lack of direction signs for the Library/THC Access Point both in the village and within the Community Centre itself. LDCI should be asked to add this to their proposed new signage in the village. HMN will speak to Planning Dept. **Agenda item. HMN/ MG Action.** (4) TECS. Water on the road at Lochside – danger in winter; dip in road near Dalchork bridge **HMN Action.** (5) Dog waste on pavement approaches to Ferrycroft. More penalty notices required. Also Dog Warden should make appearances, walk the trails and pavements and meet pedestrians and dog walkers. **HMN Action.** (6) Rough ground on trail walks at Ferrycroft unsuitable for wheelchairs, push chairs and even pedestrians. **JN Action.**

**Item 15. Date, time of next meeting.** This will be held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm.