Draft Minutes for approval

Lairg Community **Council**

Minutes of meeting held in Lairg Community Centre on Wednesday 2nd October 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: Andrew Mackay, Chair/Treasurer (AMK), Jamie Dick, Vice Chair (JD), Jackie Young, Secretary (JY), John Sutherland (JS), Sandy Allison (SA), Louise Skinner (LS), Brian Martin (BM)
Apologies: Iain Thomson (IT)
Also attending: Highland Councillor Linda Munro (LM), Kaye Hurrion, LDCI (KH), Angela Sutherland (AS) and Sheila Stewart (SS), LCA, Nina Macleod (NM), and Claire Gordon (CG)
Police Scotland: None present – report received by email
Minutes Secretary: Mary Goulder (MG)

Item 1. Welcome/Apologies (as above) /Police report. Chair Andrew Mackay opened the meeting with thanks to all for attending.
Police report. Received by email the report noted six incidents in the last month, consisting of one vandalism, one domestic, two RTC, and one Child Protection. No matters were raised to pass back to the police.
Item 2. Lairg Community Association representatives. AS outlined the current position for the Board of Directors of the LCA. Earlier in the year both AS and SS stood down from the Board aiming to work with new members to achieve a smooth transition of duties. Sadly no-one has come forward to take on the roles of Chair and Treasurer. AS and SS are holding the fort in the meantime but both are required, under the rules of the constitution to stand down having served for six consecutive years. AS must finish following the AGM in November, SS cannot serve after January 2020. Directors (committee members) are required to fill spaces on the Board and take on duties of office bearers. SS advised regarding the financial position of the LCA which is currently healthy. A public meeting will be held on Monday 28th October at 7pm in the main hall to gauge the level of support for securing the future of the centre and to answer any questions. The AGM will be held on Tuesday 5th November at 7pm in the Kinvonvie Suite. All user groups are encouraged to nominate one person to be available for election to the Board (as was always the procedure in past years); this would result in enough members thus ensuring the future of the Centre. The Centre has been recently the venue for four weddings, with very successful receptions being held. AS and SS attended tonight to appraise the CC of the position and to seek support. Encouragement was given for the circulation of an open letter to all residents, a poster campaign and articles in the Northern Times, on Facebook, etc. LM offered to liaise with THC Ward Manager to help raise awareness. If the Community Centre is to continue to function for the good of the whole community it is essential that new members step up as volunteers. Without an immediate response the Community Centre will certainly close. This would be a great loss to the community and the wider area.
Item 3. Adoption of Minutes of September meeting. The Minutes of the September meeting were adopted as a true and accurate record; proposed: Sandy Allison; seconded: John Sutherland.
Item 4. Matters arising. (1) Lairg in Bloom will arrange for the prompt transfer of the £800 to Lairg Community Council to facilitate the purchase of materials for the proposed path work at Lairg cemetery. **JY/SA Action**
Item 5. LDCI update. (KH) LDCI Chair gave the report which included information regarding the ongoing search for a Development Officer (DO). The limited funding currently

available is for a very short term contract only. Talks have been held with a potential candidate. The CC was asked if one CC member would attend the LDCI meetings to provide support and liaison. The Care & Wellbeing Project is progressing. LDCI is in the process of entering a formal agreement with Albyn Housing for them to build four 'Fit Homes' on the SA site. These houses are technologically advanced, providing an array of services, monitoring and assistance to the residents. Full details of the current situation are available from LDCI. LDCI still intends to run Winterfest this year but has hit problems as the school canteen is no longer an option for the café. An alternative venue is being sought. The station path is progressing as the Board feels that this is an important link and should be completed.
Item 6. Financial report. Treasurer's account balance stands at £2,213.12; only one outgoing payment, for secretarial services, since last month. The Windfarm account is unchanged at £520.19. Chair still has to arrange with the bank for the transfer of the £4.73 balance in the Project account to the Treasurer's account after which the Project account will be closed. **AMK Action.**
Item 7. Planning applications. Nothing relevant. Once again the Chair has not been receiving the regular notifications of applications. **LM Action.**
Item 8. Windfarms. Sallachy. Chair has signed off the community benefit agreement.
Item 9. Highland Councillor's report. (LM) The recently appointed Head Teacher at Alness has now been appointed as THC Interim Head of Education. Within Highland eight new areas will be created each with a senior director. It is hoped that this will help make progress with local issues.
Item 10. Correspondence. All email correspondence had been circulated.
Item 11. Any other competent business. (1) It is understood that the application by SSE for the Dalchork sub-station was rejected by THC. Plans to include a cycle path may have to be submitted. (2) All present advised to submit their nominations for the upcoming CC elections in November. Nomination packs are available from THC website. AMK will arrange a paper pack for JS. Deadline for nominations is noon on 8th October. It should be known by 10th October if an election is required. **Action ALL.**
Item 14. Date and time of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th November at 7.30pm in the Lairg Community Centre.
Item 15. Lairg Windfarm Ltd – Lairg Community Fund. No applications.

Meeting closed 9pm.