

Lairg Community Council

Minutes of meeting held in Lairg Community Centre on Wednesday 3rd October 2018 at 7.30pm

Present: Andrew Mackay, Chair/Treasurer (AMK), Jackie Young, Secretary (JY), John Sutherland (JS), Jamie Dick (JD), Sandy Allison (SA), Lousie Skinner (LS)

Apologies: Highland Councillor Linda Munro (LM)

Also attending: Kaye Hurrion, LDCI (KH)

Police Scotland: None present, report received by email

Minutes Secretary: Mary Goulder (MG)

Item 1. Welcome/Apologies (as above) /Police report. Chair Andrew Mackay welcomed everyone. The police report, received by email, indicated one report of lost property, three of assistance to the public and two of child protection. Police Scotland are asking all local CCs if reporting by email is acceptable when there is no serious incident noted, as often it is not possible for officers to attend if required elsewhere. CC agreed that this is acceptable but hoped that attendances would continue when circumstances allow. **Police note.**

Item 2. Adoption of Minutes of September meeting. The Minutes of the September meeting were adopted as a true and accurate record. Proposed: Sandy Allison; seconded: Louise Skinner.

Item 3. Matters arising. (1) **LCA acoustics.** AMK has not yet been in touch with LCA either for an update or to invite and LCA representative to a CC meeting. **AMK Action.** (2) **Lairg cemetery drainage.** SA has had meeting with Garry Cameron, THC. There is no money available for this drainage issue. SA has discussed with Lairg Estate Factor and has permission to dig out the blocked area though the soil would have to be redistributed on the field. The approval has been given for volunteer work to be done to tidy up the cemetery. JY will approach Lairg in Bloom with a view to submitting a funding application. SA/JY will liaise, getting quotes for materials, etc. **SA/JY Action.** (4) **Water on pavements.** The sandbags at the coned-off site on Main Street are now disintegrating; no work has been done. It is still believed that the issue is linked to the water on the tennis courts. It is not mains water; the problem cleared up completely during the dry summer. Tests should be done to establish the source which should then be dealt with immediately before winter conditions arrive. Meeting to be held next week. (5) **Playpark Ord Place.** LDCI is considering taking over the provision/maintenance as THC has no money available and simply removes equipment when damaged. **KH Action.** (6) **SSE/ E.ON Rosehall Panel.** JY has agreed to be a CC representative on the Achany Panel, initially for one year.

Item 4. Public toilets update. Awaiting THC decision regarding the Lairg amenity – due after 31st October.

Item 5. Highland Council Community Council review. No Lairg CC member was able to attend the recent meeting with THC in Bonar Bridge. MG shared some of the comments made by Creich CC regarding the inappropriate suggestions of amalgamation of CCs, funding, etc. All CCs encouraged to submit opinions before the (extended) deadline of 2nd November. **Action All.**

Item 6. Bird Hide update – volunteers/date. JD visited the hide, confirmed it is in very poor condition and overgrown. JY suggested Lairg in Bloom may provide some volunteers to clear the ground outside and on the pathway. The wood could be prepared ahead of treating asap in the spring. Much more delay will result in the demise of the hide. **JY/JD/SA/AMK Action. February agenda.**

Item 7. LDCI update. KH gave report. (1) Ord Place carvings. Work began but was instantly stopped by FCS Area Manager owing to Health & Safety issues. LDCI is trying to resolve these and new date will be set for the completion of the work. (2) Bus shelter improvements. All materials and local schoolchildren ready to do the work but recent vandalism has made this impossible meantime. LDCI liaising with THC regarding fabric of the shelter. (3) Care & Wellbeing Centre. Project ongoing. (4) Station footpath. Applying for Planning permission; THC has given landowner's approval. (5) Ord Place Playpark. See Item 3(5). (6) Gunn's Wood. Application made to FCS to take over the woodland. Sub-group formed within LDCI. (6) Police station. JY registered opinion that public money should not be used for facilities already operating in the village. Feasibility study/public survey indicated 81% of responders approved of the hostel proposal. (7) Winterfest. Now fully booked for contributors on 17th November, including the attendance of reindeer and Christmas donkeys. (8) New director. Ben Bruce has joined the Board of Directors.

Item 8. Financial report. Treasurer's account balance stands at £2,452.02 reflecting in receipt of the Highland Council annual grant and one outgoing payment to Faclan Word Service. The Windfarm account balance is £42 following the payment of awards last month. The Micro Grant Fund is currently closed awaiting a further tranche of funding, expected from the SSE/E.ON Rosehall Fund. No change in the Project account balance of £4.73. It was agreed to order this year's poppy wreath via Royal British Legion, thus saving considerably on buying direct from Lady Haig Poppy Fund. Application made by the WW1 Commemoration group for £150 to help with purchase of fifty wooden crosses, to represent the number of Lairg residents lost in the conflict and the purchase of a wreath. Funding was approved with the amount remaining ring-fenced within the CC account to be distributed as receipts received. **MG Action.**

Item 9. Planning applications. Weekly Planning Report is still not being received by Chair or MG. **LM Action.**

Item 10. Windfarms. (1) AMK advised of a proposal being put to Scottish Government to change the designation of all wild land to that of National Scenic Importance. If approved this will halt all development within the areas concerned. Fears expressed that this would stifle progress in the Highlands. AMK will respond to Scottish Government. **AMK Action.** (2) Flow Country World Heritage Site proposal. Joe Perry, THC, will be invited to attend the December meeting. This would be an extensive site ranging from the north-east to Oykel Bridge and could also seriously restrict development. **MG Action.**

Item 11. Highland Councillor's report. Emails regarding the outcomes of Cllr Munro's Action points from last month's meeting had been circulated. **TECS.** (1) Water 'pouring' out of a grate in Ord Place, near no. 6. **LM Action.**

Item 12. Correspondence. (1) Resident complaint of campervan owner attempting to dispose of chemical waste onto grass picnic area at the car park opposite Loch Shin. Cllr Munro to be asked if there is a possibility of a chemical waste disposal point being installed. **LM Action.**

Item 13. Any other competent business. None raised.

Item 14. Date and time of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 14th November (one week later than usual) at 7.30pm in the Lairg Community Centre.

Item 15. Lairg Windfarm Ltd – Lairg Community Fund. Application by LDCI for assistance with costs of the Planning application for the proposed station footpath received an award of £1,143. Two micro grant applications were held over until funds become available. **MG Action.**