

## Lairg Community Council

### Minutes of meeting held in Lairg Community Centre on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Jamie Dick, Vice and Acting Chair (JD), Andrew Mackay, Treasurer (AMK), Jackie Young, Secretary (JY), Sandy Allison (SA), John Sutherland (JS), Steven Maclean, (SM), Donna Gilchrist (DG)

**Apologies:** Highland Councillor Michael Baird (MB), Iain Thomson, Chair (IT), Louise Skinner (LS), Catherine MacDonald (CM)

**Also attending:** Highland Councillor Marianne Hutchison, (MH), Kaye Hurrion, Chair LDCI (KH)

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

**Item 1. Welcome/apologies (as above)/Police report.** Acting Chair Jamie Dick opened the meeting. Police report was received by email indicating 8 incidents: one child protection, four minor road traffic offences including speeding, two assaults and one concern for person.

**Item 2. Adoption of Minutes of May meeting.** The Minutes of the May meeting were proposed by Sancy Allison; seconded by John Sutherland.

**Item 3. Matters arising from Minutes.** (1) Bridgend House. This item will be removed from future agendas. As it is privately owned there is nothing further to be done by the CC. MH will enquire if there is anything THC can do. (2) Migdale Hospital. MB's report indicated that four beds have been opened up in the Strathy Ward. Review with public consultation is due in August and Kate Kenmure, MHS Highland, has been invited to the September meeting of the CC. (3) Speed indicator signs. MH will liaise with MB as to progress at THC. The CC still feels two approaches need the equipment, but especially the entry to the village from Bonar Bridge (A836). **MH/MB Action** (4). Noticeboard. This was expected to be in place by the end of May but has still not been erected. **IT Action.** (5) Ferrycroft jetty. The issue of a boat blocking the mooring at the pier continues. It is understood that THC owns the jetty. The safety boat for the Sailing Club is unable to moor causing danger to the public should an incident arise. **MH Action.** (6) Overgrowth around Loch Shin. Unable to obtain quotes for the clearing work. SA will speak to Lairg Estate ownerson this and also about the tennis courts to ensure the CC has no more fees to pay. **SA Action.**

**Item 4. LDCI update.** Report from the Chair. Ferrycroft Play Park. Alison Magee has done a remarkable job unravelling the complex issues of the Ferrycroft Play park and the Highland council. The playpark is the only playpark in the whole of the Sutherland and in fact only one of two, in the whole of the Highlands which is not under the amenities department. It was transferred many years ago to the Education Department, which means it is not eligible for any of the Funding made available from Highland Council to each ward for playparks and also the Scottish Government £60 million legacy they pledged to play parks, as it will be distributed through the Highland Council Amenities Department, and again means it does not qualify.. Where we are now, is that we had a meeting with Phil Tomilin and the chap in charge of the amenities department and Angela Platt. Their suggestion was, if we were to give up one play park they would be happy to take the Ferrycroft Play park back in the amenities department. So after a discussion with those involved, we felt the best park to was Ord Place.

We have had a meeting to discuss how we move forward and it was felt a community consultation on what the community would like to see at Ferrycroft, along with suggestion for the Ord Place Play Park. We will let you know as soon as we get the go ahead from Highland Council for the ward discretionary fund to pay for the survey.

Care and Wellbeing, we had a zoom call with our Solicitor Graeme Myles and we are down to the last three points to thrash out with the MOU.

Food Larder- We are still supporting over 22 people by delivering food to them from the KoSDT Larder. WE need to find a solution for a Larder here in the community as we are going to the KOSDT weekly, with the rise in price of fuel this is not sustainable as we are volunteers and we can not keep doing this.

Helping Hands Fund. We continue at the moment to be supported by the Robertson Trust for this project. As we suspected we have received a number of applications recently and are expecting more as the energy crisis hits harder.

Jubilee Celebrations - This was very successful, we had over 15 people on the Jubilee walk round the Ferrycroft which was for all abilities, followed by an afternoon tea party at the new Church Hill wood shelter, over 50 people stopped by and enjoyed the afternoon tea party. The evening celebration over at the Ferrycroft Jetty was very successful and Iain Mackay did an absolutely amazing job of playing the pipes under the extreme conditions, which was an horrendous swarm of midgies, they were truly biblical, but he kept going and we were so grateful to him.

War Memorial Celebration – we have been really amazed by the number of knitted/ crocheted felted poppies we have been given so far, we should reach our aim of an amazing cascade of poppies from the top of the memorial down to the bottom. Brian Martin has very kindly mended the dodgy hand rail. So the next jobs are painting and tidying up the grounds around the memorial, the tidying up is fine, the painting however was brought up at our last meeting and concerns were raised about a painting party doing this, with the worry being that it could look patchy if we all paint differently. So I would like to ask the Community Council for monies to pay a proper local decorator to paint them professionally, Lindsay has been suggested to me. Angela Sutherland is working with the different minister in the village to come up with a service, the school children will be painting wooden poppies, the British Legion is supporting us to make sure we deliver an appropriate and rememberable day.

Health Walks continue to be well supported we were supposed to go to Tongue to meet and walk with their group, but they had to cancel, so we are hoping to rearrange.

Lunch Club – The lunch Club will start again at the beginning of the school term, Doreen will continue the same as before being supported by the NHS and the Highland Council. We are waiting to hear if the same chap will continue to provide the transport, he is waiting to hear from Highland Council if he gets the contract from Dial a Ride. The club would like him if possible as he knows the route and the club members. We have asked the Highland Council if they could consider him.

Winterfest will be held this year Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Item 5. Financial report.** (DG) The Treasurer's account balance stands at £3,616.83 with only one outgoing payment since last month, to Faclan Word Service. The Windfarm account balance is £2,006.04. Three payments have been made in May/June, to Lairg Primary PTA, Loch Shin Sailing Club and Lair Rovers FC. The unpaid Rates demand was discussed but no update available in IT's absence. MH will enquire why the bird hide is rateable. **MH Action.**

**Item 6. Planning applications.** No action required.

**Item 7. Bird hide.** MB's report indicated that SSE will do some tidying work, confirmed at a recent Lairg Consultative Group meeting.

**Item 8. Windfarms.** Turbines currently being delivered through Lairg for the Creag Riabhach development. Delays caused.

**Item 9. Highland Councillor's report.** Received by email. Most points covered elsewhere in the minutes. Meall Buidhe application before the Planning Committee today. News received this evening of the refusal by THC of this development. MH mentioned the proposed Green Free Port in Cromarty which should provide jobs and income throughout the north. Discussion regarding Ferrycroft agreed that the area is underused by Highlife Highland. The Football Club is interested in an asset transfer of the pitch and changing rooms, wishing to make major improvements as total renovation is required. **MH Action.**

**Item 10. Correspondence.** All correspondence had been circulated by email.

**Item 11. Website.** Item now removed from regular agenda slot. Discuss whenever necessary.

**Item 12. Any other competent business.** SM mentioned that Fiona Morrison, SSE, is seeking more involvement from Lairg in a public consultation concerning an SSE performance audit.

**Item 13. Date and time of next meeting.** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm in the Kinvonvie Suite in Lairg Community Centre. **MG Action.**

**Item 14. Applications to Lairg Windfarm Community Benefit Fund.** Application by Lairg in Bloom for funding towards a watering system for the village displays received an award of £4,230. The group was encouraged to allow the equipment to be used by other local groups when appropriate.

Meeting closed 9.20pm.