

Lairg Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Zoom on Wednesday 1st December 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Iain Thomson, Chair, (IT), Vice Chair Jamie Dick, (JD), Jackie Young, Secretary (JY), Donna Gilchrist (DG), Sandy Allison (SA), John Sutherland (JS), Catherine MacDonald (CM)

Also attending: Kaye Hurrion, LDCI Chair (KH)

Apologies: Andrew Mackay, Treasurer

Police Scotland: None present

Minutes Secretary: Mary Goulder (MG)

Item 1. Welcome/apologies (as above)/Police report. IT opened the meeting. No police report received. If received after the meeting it will be forwarded to CCs.

Item 2. Adoption of Minutes of October meeting. The Minutes of the October meeting were proposed by Jackie Young; seconded by Jamie Dick.

Item 3. Matters arising from Minutes. (1) Bridgend House. Nothing to report. JY will follow up on this with renewed enquiries regarding ownership/future of the property. **JY Action.** (2) Migdale Hospital. No response received from Cllr Mackay or Cllr Munro. **JY Action.** (3) Speed indicator signs. No update in AMK's absence. It is hoped he will liaise again with Creich CC Vice Chair for an update regarding purchase and installation of equipment via THC. SA suggested CC should simply get on with it. IT will ask SSEN if there is help it can give. **AMK/IT Action.** (4) Main Street noticeboard. No information forthcoming about THC involvement. Enquiries will be made via local joiners. **KH/IT Action.** (5) Ferrycroft jetty. SSEN has no money to help but might supply people/machinery for local jobs. In time a legacy fund may be established. Time has been lost as the lack of funding was not made clear until now. (6) Overgrowth around Loch Shin. Ward Manager has advised that the land is owned by Lairg Estate. Permission granted for CC to arrange for clearance work to be done. Lairg in Bloom will seek funding in the new year with a view to work in April/May. Update at next meeting. **JY Action.**

Item 4 LDCI update. KH gave a detailed report covering ten projects: Care and Wellbeing project, Church Hill wood improvement, Ferrycroft play park, Helping Hands Fund, the community magazine, health walks, Winterfest, the station path project, the Aires project and the Lairg War Memorial centenary in September 2022. It was noted that the Aires project has been cancelled. Winterfest has also been called off though a smaller scale outdoor event may be possible. Discussions held with Angela Platts, newly appointed THC Community Support Officer with regard to play park funding. Ms Platts will be invited to the next meeting to acquaint the CC with what her role entails and to ascertain what help can be given. **MG Action.** CC agreed that LDCI should lead on the plans to commemorate the centenary of the war memorial, co-ordinating with other local groups to mark the event. Repair work is required to the memorial. This is the responsibility of THC. **KH/IT Action.** Full details of the report are available from LDCI. In response to the requests from LDCI Chair, the CC will

send a representative to each board meeting. This will be on a rotational basis with IT attending the next meeting. **KH/IT Action.**

Item 5. Financial report. (DG) The balance in the Treasurer's account stands at £3,200.16 following three outgoing payments since the last meeting: for the starter site plan for the new CC website, to Lairg Estate re the tennis courts, and to RBLs for the remembrance wreath. The recent invoice from Lairg Estate for £100 was the second payment covering a six month period in respect of the tennis courts. It was questioned why the CC pays this, and if the community is benefitting from it. No maintenance is carried out either by the Estate or the CC and currently the courts are not fit for purpose. DG will write to the Estate Manager. **DG Action.** The windfarm account is unchanged at £3478.10. The Project account remains inaccessible. It has a balance of £4.73 which should be transferred to the Treasurer's account and the Project account then closed. This can only be done by an elected office bearer. **AMK/IT/Action.**

Item 6. Planning applications. Nil of note. The weekly Planning notifications are still not being sent to IT. Cllr Munro to be asked to urge THC to rectify this. **LM Action.**

Item 7. Bird hide. (IT) At a recent liaison group meeting SSEN advised there is no money available for community projects, only supporting the community by providing work parties/equipment where possible. IT will enquire about path clearing work and treatment of timbers and shutters. **IT Action.**

Item 8. Windfarms. (IT) Garvary. Five local CC areas will receive community benefit payments divided as follows; Creich 35%, Lairg 25%, Ardgay 20%, Rogart 15%, Dornoch, 5%. Lairg's share amounts to £277,500 per annum. Shared ownership is on offer but may be too difficult to progress. Some other energy discount scheme could be more beneficial locally. IT will circulate information. **IT Action.** Creag Rheabach. Feelings are that locals are being disregarded by the developer.

Item 9. Highland Councillor's report. No report in LM's absence.

Item 10. Correspondence. All correspondence had been circulated by email. Nothing raised from this tonight.

Item 11. New website. (JD). Website is up and running, since the end of November. CCs encouraged to supply suitable photographs or relevant information to enhance the site. www.lairgcommunitycouncil.co.uk

Item 12. Any other competent business. (1) SA enquired about the ongoing maintenance plans for the wood carvings and bench at Church Hill wood. KH advised there are no plans to cover the carvings in winter but they were cleaned and oiled at the end of the summer. If covered during the worst of the winter months the lifespan would obviously be increased. KH will liaise with the leader of the Community Payback Scheme to see what can be achieved. JY interested in the scheme possibly to assist Lairg in Bloom's village clean up days. **KH Action.** (2) MG asked if the CC/LDCI has any plans to become involved with the Queen's Green Canopy Project, advising that KOSDT is working with local groups with a view to tree planting within the remit of the scheme. KH will discuss with the Trust Manager. **KH Action.**

Minutes approved 12/01/2022

Item 13. Date and time of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th January 2022 at 7.30pm on Zoom. The link will be available from goulder4929@gmail.com shortly before the meeting.

Item 14. Applications to Lairg Windfarm Community Benefit Fund. At the private session an award of £1,700 was approved to Lairg Gala Week to help fund a laptop and silent disco equipment.

Meeting closed 9pm.