

## Lairg Community Council

### Minutes of meeting held on Zoom on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Iain Thomson, Chair (IT), Jamie Dick, Vice Chair (JD), Andrew Mackay, Treasurer (AMK), Jackie Young, Secretary (JY), Sandy Allison (SA), Louise Skinner (LS)

**Apologies:** John Sutherland (JS), Brian Martin (BM)

**Also attending:** Highland Councillor Linda Munro (LM), Kaye Hurrion, LDCI Chair (KH), Caroline McMorran, Northern Times, Donna Gilchrist, Matthew Brooks, Achany (MB). Alasdair Marshall (AM)

**Police Scotland:** None received

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

**Item 1. Welcome/apologies (as above)/Police report.** Chair opened the meeting which followed immediately after the AGM. No police report received.

**Item 2.** This slot was reserved in the hope that Kate Kenmuir, NHS Highland District Manager would be able to attend but unfortunately she sent her apologies. Migdale issue discussed further in Item 5.

**Item 3. Matthew Brooks, Glen Cottage, Achany Project.** MB had submitted details of his plans to develop his property in Achany Glen. He hopes to apply for planning permission to site a number of holiday cabins on the site which is adjacent to the Falls of Shin Visitor Attraction. Unfortunately tonight's meeting was beset with connection problems on Zoom so little discussion was possible. On reconnection MB was asked to circulate more information, including a map, and IT offered to meet him at the site to establish the plan more clearly. In principle the CC is initially encouraged to hear of proposed development in the area. **MB Action.**

**Item 4. Adoption of Minutes of May meeting.** The Minutes of the May meeting were adopted as a true and accurate record; proposed: Iain Thomson; seconded: Sandy Allison.

**Item 5. Matters arising from Minutes.** (1) Migdale Hospital. Great regret was expressed by all that no representative of NHS Highland was able to attend tonight's meeting to update the community on future plans for the hospital. JY stated that she had never had so many members of the public contacting her on any issue. There are many questions to be answered. It was understood that the hospital was standing ready to take Covid patients if required but if the pressure has eased, the hospital should, at least in part, be reopened to conduct the services it has always provided. It was suggested that CC should write to NHSH and also the MP/MSP expressing the strongly held local concerns. Cllr Munro stated she was due to meet with NHS in the coming week regarding Sutherland Social Care and she would raise the matter then. **LM Action.**

**Item 6. LDCI update.** (KH). The LDCI's report covered seven projects. (1) Ferrycroft playpark. Ongoing – no progress. (2) Care & Wellbeing Project. Awaiting contact from Albyn Housing. Mindful that the cost of raw materials has risen significantly due to Covid and Brexit. (3) Helping Hands. Supporting eleven families/residents in the Lairg area from the KoSDT food larder. (4) Magazine. Good support locally with submissions of photos and articles. (5) Springwatch. BBC team happy with the locations at the Bird Hide and Ferrycroft. (6) Toilets. Issues with the sewage system becoming blocked by campervan waste. Notices posted to direct tourists to the chemical waste point at Shin Falls. (7) Discussions continue with SEPA regarding the possibility of an Aires site.

**Item 7. Financial report.** (MG) The report was given at the AGM before this meeting. The balance in the Treasurer's account stands at £3,454.99 reflecting three outgoing payments to Faclan Word Service, Lairg Estate and Highland Bookkeeping Services... The windfarm account is unchanged at £3,478.10.

**Item 8. Planning applications.** Nil of note. THC Planning to be asked to add IT to the circulation of the weekly Planning report. **LM Action.**

**Item 9. Bird hide.** (SA) SA and IT will send a brief report to SSE outlining the work which needs to be done. **SA/IT Action.**

**Item 10. Windfarms.** (IT) (1) IT will become the regular first contact on behalf of the CC for matters relating to windfarms. He will discuss with Creich CC Chair the issue of community benefit plans for the Achany Extension. **IT Action.**

**Item 11. Highland Councillor's report.** (LM) Cllr Munro was asked if she could obtain information regarding where the extra funding available for proposed road works will be used, with a timeline if possible. **LM Action.**

**Item 12. Correspondence.** All correspondence had been circulated by email.

**Item 13. Any other competent business.** (1) AM reported that the Sailing Club is up and running with good attendances, especially youngsters. The committee has concerns about the numbers of boat trailers being left at the jetty, inconveniencing other users. LM agreed this facility should be easily accessed by everyone and will take the matter to the Ward Manager to see if anything can be done. **LM Action.** (2) TECS. Dangerous potholes on the Tomich road noted by JY and SA. SA will send photos to LM. **SA Action.** Mattresses and furniture dumped on the Builnatobrach road, causing a health hazard/possible vermin infestation. On private land this is the owner's responsibility. CC can write to them if known. (3) Bus timetable. It would be helpful if the timetables were once again posted on the noticeboard in the middle of the village opposite the old Post Office building. If costs involved CC could approach LM for help from Ward Discretionary Budget. IT suggested this could be something SSE might help with. **JY/LM/IT Action.** (4) Paths at the cemetery. SA is willing to organise another volunteer clear up day as the paths are in need of attention. LM will contact John Mackay THC. KH will put a piece in the village magazine seeking volunteers. **SA/KH/LM Action.** (5) CC website. JD will go ahead with setting up a new site as the previous one now appears to be defunct. Invoices will be passed to the Treasurer in due course. **JD Action.**

**Item 14. Date and time of next meeting.** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm. It is hoped that this meeting can be held in public. Nearer the time THC will be asked to confirm if this is allowed after which Lairg Community Centre will be contacted to book if so. Failing that the meeting will be held on Zoom.

**Item 13. Lairg Windfarm Ltd – Lairg Community Fund.** There were no applications to discuss.

Meeting closed 9.00pm