

Lairg Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Zoom on Wednesday 2nd March 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Iain Thomson, Chair (IT), Jamie Dick, Vice Chair (JD), Andrew Mackay, Treasurer (AMK), Sandy Allison (SA), Catherine Anne MacDonald (CAM), Donna Gilchrist (DG)

Apologies: Jakcie Young, Secretary (JY), Louise Skinner (LS), Kaye Hurrion, Chair LDCI (KH)

Also attending: Highland Councillor Linda Munro, (LM), Alison Magee, LDCI (AM), Caroline McMorran, Northern Times, Michael Baird (MB)

Police Scotland: Report received by email

Minutes Secretary: Mary Goulder (MG)

Item 1. Welcome/apologies (as above)/Police report. Chair Iain Thomson opened the meeting which followed the annual private review meeting with Foundation Scotland. Police report indicated fourteen incidents: two police information, one road traffic collision, three planned shoots, four concern for persons, one lost dog, one weather related loss of 999 service, one assist a member of the public. IT commented that on behalf of his employers he had registered three planned shoots. He wondered if anyone else registers theirs.

Item 2. Adoption of Minutes of January meeting. The Minutes of the January meeting were proposed by Andrew Mackay; seconded by Iain Thomson.

Item 3. Matters arising from Minutes. (1/2) Bridgend House/Migdale Hospital. JY and LS were taking the lead on these. No updates available. (3) Speed indicator signs. No assistance forthcoming from SSE. No response from THC regarding permission to attach signs to street lights. CC cannot proceed to purchase equipment without the guarantee that it can be installed. **LM Action.** (4) Main Street noticeboard. Expected to be in place soon. Made by Lockharts with support from Sallachy Estate. (5) Ferrycroft jetty. No update. (6) Overgrowth around Loch Shin/ Queen's Green canopy (see Item 4 (7)). No updates.

Item 4. LDCI update. (AM) (1) Attending on behalf of LDCI, AM gave the report. Ferrycroft playpark is the only one in THC area which is managed by the Education Department and not the Amenities Department. This anomaly excludes it from receiving funding from the Scottish Government Playspace Investment Fund. This must be amended asap. LDCI and Cllr Munro are working to achieve the changeover. It was confirmed that THC has owned the site since 1974. Once under the umbrella of the Amenities Department that would take over low maintenance if the site is gifted to it. This was a state-of-the-art playspace in the 1990s and should be returned to that condition. With £60m investment by Scottish Government available for playparks, Ferrycroft must receive its appropriate share. **LM Action.** (2) The AGM will be held on 31st March at which an update will be given by Susan Clark, Project Consultant for the Care and Wellbeing Project. IT, AMK and possibly JY hope to attend. (3) Helping Hands Fund. Supporting twenty residents through the Community Larder deliveries. Seeking new funding from the end of March to continue the scheme. (4) Health walks. Next one planned for the end of March. (5) Church Hill wood. Groundwork started for the Outdoor Shelter. Once completed the shelter will be built by James Lockhart and the bike repair shelter will be installed at that time. (6) War memorial. Plans progress for the centenary celebrations. Knitted/crocheted/felted poppies of all sizes are requested to form a cascade of poppies down the length of the railings. Drop off points for donations are in place at the Library and Learning Centre. (7) Queen's Canopy. Working with

Nature Scotland, KoSDT and other local groups on a project to deliver indigenous trees in the local areas. (8) Community magazine. Owing to the increase in articles submitted, the number of pages is increasing. Now printing and delivering over 150 copies a month. Further details on any of these points, or others, can be had from the LDCI office.

Item 5. Financial report. (DG) The balance in the Treasurer's account stands at £2,787.88. Two outgoing payments made to Faclan Word Service and Zurich Municipal. The windfarm account is unchanged at £3478.10. The Project account is now 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. Tennis courts fees. IT will speak to Lairg Estate regarding the payment of fees and responsibilities for maintenance etc. **IT Action.**

Item 6. Planning applications. Weekly notifications are now being sent to IT. Nothing relevant this month.

Item 7. Bird hide. IT has had no response to his emails to SSE regarding any assistance which might be available. IT is requesting that SSE make a commitment to the community to maintain the hide for the twenty-five years it will be operating at Dalchork. **IT Action.**

Item 8. Windfarms. Creag Rheabhag. AMK advised that a dry run will be made this month to check out the delivery route. First turbines are due at the start of April, but it is believed that the works are behind schedule. There is no Lairg representative on the Liaison Group.

AMK Action.

Item 9. Highland Councillor's report. None available.

Item 10. Correspondence. All correspondence had been circulated by email. Lairg Community Association has advised of an increase in hiring charges. As this presumes the hall will now be accepting bookings, it is planned that the next CC meeting will be face to face there.

Item 11. Website update. The site is functioning and CCs are encouraged to submit material to be added to enhance it further. JD congratulated for his work on the new site and its maintenance.

Item 12. Any other competent business. (1) A general discussion took place about the future use of community benefit with the feelings expressed that better distribution throughout the community must be achieved. The main thrust of this was aimed at the upcoming expected large jump in energy costs. Many difficulties would need to be overcome to assist areas local to developments to benefit from discounted energy costs but this should be seriously considered by those involved. (2) TECS. Incidents noted of near accidents caused by vehicles on the Struie pulling out from passing places and taking the wrong side of the road. There used to be regular signposts on Highland roads reminding users to drive on the left. THC should be asked to reinstate these where possible – the Struie viewpoint being given as a prime example. **LM Action.**

Item 13. Date and time of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th May at 7.30pm. It is hoped that this will be in the Kinvonvie Suite in Lairg Community Centre. The website will be updated once the booking is confirmed. Failing that the meeting will be on Zoom with the link available from goulder4929@gmail.com

Item 14. Applications to Lairg Windfarm Community Benefit Fund. Application by Light up Lairg for £250 was approved towards disclosure certification for group members and some other local groups where appropriate. At the private review meeting awards were approved as follows: Golspie High School Parent Council was awarded £2,690 towards transport costs for after school activities including study sessions; Light up Lairg £5,000 towards new storage facility. FS personnel will advise applicants of the main awards with MG/DG arranging the micro grant payment. **MG/DG Action.**

Meeting closed 9pm.

