



Lairg Community Council

Minutes of meeting held

in the Kinvonvie Suite, Lairg Community Centre

on Wednesday 1st March 2023 at 7.30pm

Present: Iain Thomson, Chair (IT), Andrew Mackay, Treasurer (AMK), Jamie Dick, Vice Chair (JD), Louise Skinner (LS), John Sutherland (JS), Donna Gilchrist (DG), Steven Maclean (SM)

Apologies: Jackie Young, Secretary (JY), Sandy Allison (SA), Catherine MacDonald (CM), Highland Councillor Marianne Hutchison (MH), Alison Magee, LDCI (AM)

Also attending: Councillor Michael Baird (MB), Kaye Hurrion, Chair LDCI (KH)

Minutes Secretary: Mary Goulder (MG)

Item 1. Welcome/apologies (as above)/Police report. Chair opened the meeting which followed immediately after the annual review meeting with Chris Lee of Foundation Scotland. No police report discussed.

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

Item 3. Matters arising from Minutes. (1) Speed indicator signs. MB confirmed that THC is progressing its plans to amend the village speed limit to 20mph, along with many Highland villages. It is hoped this might be in place by the end of the year. The question of policing the new limit was raised. (2) Loch Shin overgrowth. Clearance of the banks around the loch between the Lochside corner and the bridge will be done by volunteers if possible. Applying for funding would entail much red tape.

Item 4. LDCI update. (KH) (1) Care and Wellbeing Houses. LDCI's AGM is scheduled for March 9th after which a further update will be given. (2) Playpark. Discussions continue. Plans for a 'big destination' all-ability themed park are being considered. A big project would require major funding support. Talks ongoing with THC. All equipment installed must meet THC standards and be sourced from approved manufacturers. LS was thanked for her work on the project so far. (3) Helping Hands Fund. KoSDT has been asked to take over the running of this fund as it is proving too time-consuming for LDCI's limited resources. LDCI will continue until the present funding from the Robertson Trust has been used. Most of the grants have been allocated with a few still being processed. (4) Lunch Club. Club is running well. CC approved its support for LDCI to urge THC to reinstate the Dial-a-Bus service so that Lairg residents can continue regular attendance at the Bradbury Centre. (5) Magazine. Very popular with local residents. Several groups and the primary school have taken regular pages. (6) Health Walks. These continue on a monthly basis with a core of regular attenders. (7) Food larder. Discussions with Spar shop as the company has a policy of working with

local larders. Voucher scheme is being considered to ensure that the support issued is used locally for food supplied.

Item 5. LCA update. Nothing received from LCA. IT will make contact in hopes that reports/ attendances might prove possible for future meetings. **IT Action.**

Item 6. Financial report. (DG) The balance in the Treasurer's account stands at £5,323.95 with the Windfarm account at £1,542.97. **Tennis Courts.** IT advised that the current lease runs until 2025 and will continue for another five years if no action taken by either party. IT will inspect the courts to ascertain the current state of the grounds. DG will access the CC insurance policy so the CC can check regarding public liability insurance. LS will ask possible users what is needed to make the courts functional for tennis, and possibly football and basketball. All agreed that in good condition the facility should be an asset to the village and better use by all clubs should be encouraged. A small grant could be appropriate at this stage. **IT/DG/LS Action.**

Item 7. Planning applications. IT listed recent applications within the CC boundaries none of which was considered contentious.

Item 8. Bird hide. A recent visit to the site proved the need for improving the track and parking area, clearing scrub and growth around the hide, and for maintenance of the building structure. SM had provided costings. It was agreed that SM will submit an application to THC Ward Discretionary Fund for when it reopens following the THC annual budget. **SM Action.**

Item 9. Windfarms. (1) Local windfarms will be subject to the new regulations under the National Planning Framework 4 Review. (2) Garvary. Twelve turbines at the southern end will be removed from the previously submitted plans. Some contention over specific turbines. Discussion covered why Lairg is not part of community benefit discussions for some of the proposed developments in the surrounding areas.

Item 10. Highland Councillor's report. (MB) (1) As part of the Spital-Loch Buidhe pylon line development, the sub-station at Loch Buidhe will be extended. Assembly of equipment will take place on site, avoiding deliveries by oversized lorries. (2) Roads. Awaiting outcome of THC budget on 2nd March. The Sutherland road team is currently understaffed with ten vacancies, mostly based in the west but one in Lairg. (3) Bridgend House. No update available.

Item 11 Correspondence. All correspondence had been circulated by email.

Item 12. Any other competent business. (1) CC logo. Several suggestions for designs received for the logo design. CCs approved one which will now be used on correspondence, when appropriate, and on the website, etc. The designer,, Kirsten Langois will be asked to submit her invoice, as previously agreed. **MG/DG/JD action.**

Item 13. Date, time of next meeting. The next meeting will be held in the Kinvonvie Suite, Lairg Community Centre on Wednesday 3rd May 2023 at 7.30pm. This will also be the AGM. MG to book the room. **MG Action.**

Item 14. Applications to Lairg Windfarm Community Benefit Fund. Applications made to the soon to be established Village Improvement Fund were transferred to the Micro Grant Fund to enable projects to proceed without further delay. Lairg in Bloom was awarded £400

Minutes approved 24/5/2023

towards pre-seeded and planted baskets, Lairg Gala Week was awarded £83.60 to facilitate new signage for the Broons' Hoose and Lairg Badminton Club was awarded £250 towards equipment for the continuation of the club. **DG Action.**

Meeting closed 9.30pm.