



Lairg Community Council

Minutes for meeting Wednesday 10th January 2024, 7pm

Meeting started 7pm

1. **Welcome and Apologies:** Present Steven Maclean, Chair (SM), Jamie Dick (JD), Robert Johnstone (RJ), Jackie Young (JY), Louise Skinner (LS), Cllr Michael Baird, Caroline McMorran (Northern Times), Miranda Jones (secretary). Apologies: Catherine Macdonald
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None declared
3. **To confirm the minutes** of the LCC meeting held on 1st November 2023 RJ proposed, JD second
4. **Matters arising from previous minutes:**
 - i) LCC letter of support for LDCI grant funding for Play Park has been completed
 - ii) All councillors have seen the Timetable for Wind Farm grant applications
 - iii) Complaints re state of roads. Cllr Baird Michael escalated to the relevant department at the Highland Council - HC have a schedule of repairs. Cars damaged due to potholes/state of road should make a claim to HC by ringing 01349 886601
5. **Co-opting of members** and associate members. The council would like to co-opt Ian Thompson, as he was not present at the meeting, it was agreed that this item would be postponed until the next meeting.
6. **Police Report:** none submitted

7. **LDCI Report:** the grant asking for £60k and letter of support for LCC has been submitted for the playpark.

Lunch club: Doreen Mackay stepping down and as yet there is no replacement for her.

8. **Play Park equipment at Ord Place:** John Mackay from HC to be asked if the equipment at Ord Place could be relocated lochside when the new play park is created. Cllr Baird asked to find out if grass will continue to be cut at Ord Place. LCC would like to request that any new equipment detained for Lochside be given to the school. ***Please see an update from Councillor Baird at the end of these minutes**

It was suggested a locality plan be created.

9. **Financial Report & Treasurer Role:** paperwork in progress to remove former councillors as signatures on accounts, plan to move to internet banking and for Miranda Jones (secretary) to take over the treasurer role.

10. **Lairg Community Centre:** Funding for new boiler application approved, and paid.

11. **Planning Applications:** none in

12. **Highland Councillor's Report:** In June, the temporary traffic order restricting speed to 20mph across the Highland Council area will become permanent. Public and community groups have until the end of January to submit feedback as part of the consultation being run by the Chair of The Highland Council's Economy and Infrastructure Committee, Councillor Ken Gowans. "Local people know their areas best and all feedback we receive will be part of the decision-making process for the next phase of the project and will provide valuable feedback on the roll out to date."

Link to feedback form [Maptionnaire](#)

13. **Public Participation in Council Meetings:** It was agreed that the dates of future council meetings be displayed at the Community centre and on noticeboards around the village. Public attendance and participation at council meetings is welcomed.

14. **Resilience Fund:** No suitable project currently exists for this funding

15. **Correspondence:** Recent waiting times for ambulances to arrive when called to Lairg 7hrs and 3hrs.

16. Windfarm Community Benefit

i. Village Officer

ACTION: SM to apply to Lairg Wind Farm & Rosehall and Achany Wind Farms for funding for village maintenance works.

LCC to provide a list of jobs and mini projects to include tending lochside area, cemetery, church hill woods, general grass cutting.

ii. **Migdale hospital:** - LCC letter to send a letter in support of the hospital services provided by Migdale Hospital. Rhoda Grant

iii. Creag Riabhach Wind Farm up and running. The planning permission for the extension for 3 turbines & battery storage to come before HC Planning Committee 30th January 2024.

iv. It was agreed that SM would represent Lairg Community Council on the Rosehall and Achany Wind Farm panel

v. It was agreed that JY would represent Lairg Community Council on the KoSDT Apprenticeship panel.

vi. Agreed to give MJ, secretary, access to the council's Gmail account.

17. Date and Time of Next Meeting & schedule of meetings for 2024

Dates of meetings 2024, all to commence at 7pm, Lairg Community Centre

Feb 7th March 6th April 3rd May 1st June 5th

Sept 4th Oct 2nd Nov 6th

Meeting ended 20.28pm

Update from Cllr Baird: communication from John Mackay, Amenity Services Manager (North), Highland Council

Michael,

The reciprocal agreement was that the community would take over the existing Ord Place play park as a community green space, I think they have some plans for it. And we would take on Ferry Croft, this is because it was owned as part of the museum, who don't have the resources to look after it.

The community have a project in hand to refurbish Ferry Croft, which we will then maintain.

In Lochside we have installed a set of swings, a seesaw, roundabout, and a spring mobile. The springy donkeys were put in Ord Place in error, they are very easy to remove, but it was felt that it would be best to leave them in place for the kids to play with until Ferry Croft is refurbished, and then remove them, or leave them in place if that's what the community want when we hand over the site. If they are removed, they will be relocated to another site in Lairg.

We will continue cut the grass for as long as we have the play park.

I hope this addresses the concerns raised.