



## Lairg Community Council

Minutes of meeting held Wednesday 6th March 2024, 7pm

1. **Welcome and Apologies:**

Steve Maclean, Chair (SM), Iain Thompson (IT), John Sutherland (JS), Jackie Young (JY), Jamie Dick (JD), Cllr Micheal Baird: Highland Council, Caroline McMorran: Northern Times, Kaye Hurrion (LDCI)

Miranda Jones: Minute Secretary

Apols: Louise Skinner (LS), Robert Johnstone (RJ), Catherine Macdonald (CM),

2. **Declarations of Interest** - none advised

3. **To confirm the minutes of the LCC meeting held on 7th February 2024**

Proposed by JD, seconded by IT, minutes accepted

4. **Matters arising from previous minutes** - none advised

5. **Shinness Wind Farm**

Presentation by Ron Shanks

Project began in 2005 when John White approached Mr Shanks re looking at plans for potential wind farm development at Shinness. Mr Shanks formed part of the Altnaharra wind farm development.

Class 1 wind site, no SPAs, statutory designations.

The Shinness Grazing committee and landholder Chris Fletcher agreed to - private shareholders development

2018 Shinness Wind Farm Ltd created. Opened to Shiness community 72 homes invited to join SWF 18% now own 15% of the company.

Proposal - 2 design workshops, consultation HC, SEPA, Nature SCot ECU scoping process. Gearing up to final design

16 turbines - 200m base to tip, 155m rotor, accessed from A838 just past West Shinness. On site substation and battery energy storage facility. 105.6 megawatts capacity

Infrastructure - tracks, met masks, no impact to peat or peat soil. 2 lines of turbines on thinnest peat field. Biodiversity and habitat management plan. Woodland plan. Deer management plan, agreement with crofters restrict use of the hill for grazing, improve grazing in lower fields.

Development operational for 40 yrs. 2030-2032 grid connection date (National Grid/SSE)

Section 36 application with scot gov beginning of april (18mths - 2yrs)

2026 decision expected

Community benefit £5000/megawatt

Wind Farm company committed to Houses in Shinness - £1250 per annum energy contribution, power contribution, top up to community fund.

£20 million over 40 years for community funds

## **6. Balblair Wind Farm update**

IT attended meeting - 9 turbine scheme above woodland at Balblair. Access: Rogart, Lairg, Forestry Commission woodland by Invershin or existing pylon line. Not spoken to community councils Creich/Ardgay. Historic arrangement LCC

## **7. Police Report** none received

## **8. LDCI Report:** Houses due to be handed over 07.03.2024 at 11am ahead of schedule (May). Houses are absolutely fantastic (Kaye) Compass have done great work and supported local events. AGM tomorrow (Thurs 07.03)

Play park all but one lot of funding received. National Lottery decision 19.03. £160k LDCI providing play equipment, HC have agreed to maintain it .

Food larder - volunteers still delivering. Learning Ctr have a larder topped up 2-3 x per week

Helping hands: KOSDT run it with money from LDCI

Magazine continuing with money from reserves, need to find funding

Lunch club continues with shared workload. Lairg Wind Farm application for grant money.

Kaye's last year as Chair and board member of LDCI, will handover. Need new board members.

Jackie Young joined the meeting at 19.42

**9. Financial Report - none**

**10. Date of AGM and actions needed - AGM in June** Ashley Poole Accountant for financial report

**11. Planning Applications** Overscaig - house. Extension: Hill View, Lairg. Change of use Emma Armstrong from Air bnb to bunkhouse

**12. Highland Councillor's Report**

Community Support & Engagement team: single point of contact, Fiona Richardson.

Community Partnership: Phil Tomlin

Place planning, common good fund: Phil Tomalin.

Community Council Enquiries, grant enquiries:Liam Clancy

Community Benefit: Gale Ward

Schedule of Works: Sutherland has 4662 o/standing works to be done, mainly potholes, carriageway, street lighting.

Rangers in Sutherland: Ringfenced money taken for road project/transport initiative.

Money remains in the Coastal Regeneration Fund. £75k needed for 3 jobs - can community councils fund?

Recycling - pilot running in Ross Shire with an additional bin. Garden waste turned to compost

[What happens to your rubbish | What happens to your rubbish | The Highland Council](#)

[Service changes | Changes to your bins | The Highland Council](#)

Migdale Hospital: ongoing

**13. Foundation Scotland** re LDLC sub-panel for reviewing LCC grant applications - memorandum of understanding and terms of reference to be amended. Chris Lee from Foundation Scotland to action

**14. Correspondence**

- Willie Spratt, Strathy and Armadale Community Council  
IT to contact
- FLS re Dalchork

- King's Portrait: Offer declined.

#### 15. Windfarm Community Benefit

- Lairg in Bloom

£2200 - floral displays, new barrow planters (20 x plastic replace old wooden ones) £278 contribution from LIB,

Agreed unanimously - award in full

- Golspie Youth Action Group

Agreed to pay full microgrant award

- Lairg Gala week/crofters show - sports equipment £250 - Agreed
- Shinness Carnival £250 microgrant from Christmas

#### **16. Date and Time of Next Meeting – April 3rd, 7pm**