



Lairg Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held in Kinvonvie Suite, Lairg Community Centre.

Wednesday 6th September 2023. 7.30pm

Present: Iain Thomson (IT) Chair, Jamie Dick (JD) Vice-Chair, John Sutherland (JS), Steven Maclean (SM) Jackie Young (JY), Catherine Macdonald (CM), Robert Johnstone (RJ) LDCI

Apologies: Andrew Mackay, Sandy Allison, Louise Skinner, Donna Gilchrist

Minutes Secretary: Miranda Jones

Item 1: Welcome, apologies, police report

Chair opened the meeting and thanked members for attending.

Item 2: Matters arising from previous meeting

There were no matters arising not covered by the agenda. Minutes from the council meeting on 24th May 2023 were adopted. Proposed by JY and seconded by IT

Item 3: LDCI update

Robert Johnstone of LDCI presented his report (attached to minutes). Following on from the community engagement days already held, there is another planned for the new year. Councillors questioned how local people can apply for housing and emphasised the importance of making the information known to people locally.

ACTION: The council to put information re applying for the houses on their website

RJ confirmed LDCI do not get an income from the housing project.

LDCI are currently seeking funding for the play park, council recommended a person with expertise and experience who could help source the funding.

Other items in the report included updates on the food larder, Lairg Magazine, Winterfest (to be held on 9th December), and the Lunch Club which has returned after the summer break to increased numbers.

Item 4: Lairg Community Council Constitution

SM will circulate the draft constitution before discussion and adoption at the next meeting.

Item 5: Lairg Community Council new secretary update

IT introduced MJ as the council's new secretary. MJ has prior council experience as a town and county councillor in Rutland, England.

Item 6: Financial Report

Report from DG submitted. The balance in the Treasurer's account stands at £2865.50

Outgoing payments to Lairg Community Association (June & August), The Pier Café, Facian Word Service (for secretarial work). Foundation Scotland made a payment into the incorrect Lairg bank account, this was transferred.

ACTION: IT to close the project account and transfer the balance to the treasurer's account.

Item 7: Planning Applications

IT listed recent applications within the community council boundaries, 6 in total. Including an application to extend the Windfarm operating period to 40 years

ACTION: IT to make representations to object

Item 8: Bird Hide update

Budget of £2k from Ward Discretionary Fund. Work aimed to be completed by end of October

Item 9: Windfarms

IT attended a community liaison meeting re Sallachy windfarm which now has a completion date of 2026. Community benefit funding will be available after this date.

ACTION: IT to chase up current and approved applications to ensure LCC is included in community benefits.

Item 10: Highland Councillors report

Due to an oversight, and lack of a secretary at the time, invitations were not sent out to Highland Councillors.

ACTION: MJ to send apologies and invitation to next meeting.

Item 11: Correspondence

All correspondence had been circulated by email. The Highland Council has requested LCC propose a street name for the development of new houses. Proposed are Sutherland Arms Way, Sutherland Arms Close, Sutherland Arms Drove. LCC prefer Sutherland Arms Way but happy for HC to decide the street name.

ACTION: JD to respond to Highland Council

Item 12: Any other competent business

- 1) There is no existing plan detailing community assets within the village. IT would like to create one with LDCI re owners/community assets. Keep as a live document to update as necessary and publish on LCC website.
- 2) IT reported that guests at The Lodge were very impressed with the floral displays around the village but asked why there was nothing at the railway station. Planters there are empty.
ACTION: JY to discuss with Lairg in Bloom
- 3) Members discussed the terrible state of certain roads around Lairg, particularly the junction of Torroble & Tomich, Rhian Breck
ACTION: IT to inform Cllr Baird

Item 13: Date, time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in the Kinvonvie Suite, Lairg Community Centre, Wednesday 1st November at 7.30pm

ACTION: MJ to book the room

Item 14: Lairg Windfarm Community Benefit

- 1) JY proposed that LCC could look at employing a part-time village officer to tend to areas around the village. Job could be put out to tender, apply for financing from the windfarm
ACTION: ALL Compile a list of jobs/responsibilities for village officer for discussion at next meeting.
ACTION: SM acquire the memorandum of understanding (MOU) from the windfarm
- 2) HUB/LDCI application.
ACTION: IT to circulate application to members and request more information from Chris re other funding sources
- 3) Councillors discussed a fuel voucher scheme for apprentices/young workers
- 4) Approved: Lairg Rovers microgrant £250
- 5) Approved: Proposal by the Hub to start Fitness Classes in Lairg.

Meeting closed 9.30pm