

**Minute of Beauly Community Council Meeting  
held on Monday, 26th March, 2012, in the Phipps Hall**

Present: C.Council: Seona Fraser, James Campbell, Rosie McDonald, Belle Maxwell,  
Tony Boyland  
HC Members: Cllr Helen Carmichael, Cllr Margaret Davidson, Cllr Drew Hendry  
Public: Dr Keith Williams, Ness & Beauly Fisheries Trust

Apologies: Maratena Coleman, Jane Campbell, Jim Stewart, Sgt Gregor Hay  
Cllr Hamish Wood

The Chair, Tony Boyland, introduced Dr Keith Williams, from the Ness & Beauly Fisheries Trust, who had asked to address the Community Council, and the following is a resume of what he said.

Last year electro fishing surveys were carried out at Bridgend burn, which revealed the presence of trout, lamprey and salmon upstream, but only salmon fry downstream of the culvert. It is believed that the culvert is a barrier to fish movement, as it is always full of debris. They consulted the SEPA engineers, at great expense, who came up with the suggestion of removing the culvert and replacing it with a proper bridge or, alternatively, a partial removal of the culvert. This would also reduce flooding in this area. There would be a chance of obtaining funding for this work. They will be consulting the community before a final decision is made. They also carried out a Non-native Plant Species Survey, which found hogweed, knotweed and Himalayan balsam, which spreads like wildfire. Dr Williams had e-mailed a detailed report to all the CC members prior to this meeting. (3f). The CC reiterated their commitment to assist Ness & Beauly Fisheries Trust to improve the burn running through the village wherever possible.

1. **Minute of the Previous Meeting**

Minute No.43 was read and approved. Proposed by Seona Fraser, seconded by James Campbell.

2. **Matters Arising from Previous Minute**

a) **Police Matters**

Since Hugh Logan, Roads Department, informed us that car parking was not his area of expertise, it was suggested contacting Richard Evans, Manager of TEC Services. Belle Maxwell to action, with a copy to Cllrs Carmichael and Davidson. At the recent Ward Forum on 1st March, Chief Inspector Murdoch gave a talk on police reform. Notes were taken of this meeting and a copy is attached for information. The Royal Mail vans continue to park in the Phipps Hall courtyard, which is solely for the use of its patrons, or on Viewfield Avenue which causing serious traffic problems. Action - Tony Boyland to write to the Royal Mail informing them of the situation and pointing out there is free parking at Braeview Car Park. A sign is to be erected at the entrance to Phipps Hall to read 'Patrons Only' - Action Cllr Carmichael.

b) **Cnoc**

Tony Boyland has now received 3 estimates for cutting back the trees at the children's play areas. Cllr Drew Hendry will seek the funding.

c) **The Square**

Mr Mair's fish van has moved to the Priory area and this has proved to be satisfactory. This item

is now removed from the minute.

- d) Balblair Quarry Aggregates Industry - Ongoing
- e) Braeview Community Development Sub-committee

A few problems have been experienced and a new plan will need to be submitted.

- f) Treasurer's Retirement

It was agreed to have Eric Moodie's presentation in the Priory Hotel, over lunch, at a date suitable to Eric and Janet. Belle Maxwell to action.

- g) Ward Forum on the Bus Service

Notes were taken of this meeting and are attached to this minute. Cllr Margaret Davidson will contact Steve Walker regarding the buses continually breaking down.

- h) Scotia Footbridge - Ongoing
- i) Spring Clean-up

This was a great success, with a good turnout. One disappointment was not getting a skip from TEC Services as usual, as we had to hire one at a cost of £279 + VAT.

- j) Highland Railway Line 150th Anniversary

On 16th June a train will be leaving Inverness for the North and James Campbell to contact Friends of the North Line for more information. Will it, or will it not, be stopping at Beauly?

- k) Queen's Jubilee - Tuesday, 5th June

Rosie McDonald will organise and head a working party to arrange the celebrations. A street party has been suggested. It was also suggested obtaining some old photographs of any visits in the past by the Queen - check the Courier, ask the public. Action Rosie McDonald.

- l) Market Stalls

The CC has agreed that market stalls would be allowed in the Square but only for charity purposes.

- m) Village Plan - Ongoing

### 3. Correspondence

- a) Inverness Area Community Council Forum meeting on Wednesday, 25th April, at 7pm.
- b) Young Start - A new fund aimed at unlocking the potential of Scotland's youth was launched on 13th March by the Big Lottery Fund. Young Start will invest dormant accounts money.
- c) Highland Council Community Schemes 2012/2013 renewal of insurance policy. An invoice for £112.26 will be sent to us within the next few weeks.
- d) Druim Ba Wind Farm - e-mail received from Denise Davis, 17th March, in response to Tony Boyland's recent letter. This e-mail's final words were - 'you fulfilled your duty in the best and only way possible.' Let's hope this concludes the matter.
- e) Planning Democracy Conference, Saturday, 21st April, 10am-4.30pm. £10 per person.

- f) RAFTS River and Fisheries Trust of Scotland. Pan Scotland Engineering Assessment of Barriers to Fish Passage: III, Bridgend Culvert, Beaulieu Scoping Report (Draft), Dec 2011.

4. **Any Other Business**

a) **Benches**

Rosie McDonald had seen some wooden/cemented benches in Ingles Street, Inverness, and Cllr Drew Hendry agreed to find out how much they cost. The 2 benches in Riverside Drive belong to Highland Council, so Belle Maxwell will contact TEC Services to have them cleaned.

b) **The Monk**

The account has been received - £1,000. This will be divided three ways - Beaulieu in Bloom £400, Traders' Association £300 and the Community Council £300. Robert Campbell is in the process of making a wine barrel collection box.

c) **The Fountain**

This will get a quick clean-up, with flower tubs around it, but in the long term it needs a full refurbishment.

d) **Public Toilets**

It appears that the gents toilets have been refurbished but not the ladies. Cllr Carmichael will follow this through.

5. **Planning Applications**

a) **New Applications** - None

b) **Existing Applications**

- Lovat Caravan Park
- Erection of electrical converter at West Balblair

6. **Date of Next Meeting**

Monday, 28th May, at 7.30pm.

# Notes of Ward Forum

Thursday, 1st March, 2012, at Brockie's Lodge

## 2 Topics - Police and the Bus Service

### Police

**Chief Inspector Murdoch** talked about police reform - the announcement that there will be a single police force in Scotland as from 2nd April next year (2013). He reassured us that we should see no change in the day-to-day policing of our area, but boundaries may change over the next couple of years. Towards the end of this year we will have a Chief Constable for Scotland. He will appoint an executive and the new headquarters will be in the current Scottish Police College at Tulliallan in Kincardineshire. All areas will have a local Police Commander (uncertain yet what rank this officer will be). There will be no reduction in the number of police officers but the civilian staff may be reduced. There may be a change in the police uniform. Chief Inspector Murdoch assured us that Northern Constabulary will keep us informed..

### Transport

**Bob Edwards**, Senior Transport Officer of Highland Council, then addressed the forum. He stated that tenders were put out for the public transport, dictating timetable specifications and vehicle specifications, every five years, and it was the policy of Highland Council to accept the lowest bid. The new service commenced on 1st January, 2012. DE Coaches were successful in obtaining the school contract and Stagecoach was successful in obtaining the public service contract. Highland Council is responsible for the subsidised rural bus service. They are also responsible for updating the timetables on bus stops.

**Steve Walker**, Managing Director of Stagecoach, informed the forum that Stagecoach had lost about 21 vehicles worth of work, predominantly through not getting the school contract. Some of their services were built around the school contract and when they were unsuccessful they had to review the situation and unfortunately some runs had to be terminated, one of them being the 7.50am No.28 service from Inverness to Dingwall. However, Mr Walker did suggest that DE Coaches should be contacted to see if they would cover this service and Bob Edwards agreed to do so. Complaints also arose from the lack of a late evening service. Mr Walker agreed to keep all the CCs notified of the up-to-date timetables through the Ward Administrator, Charles Stephen. A representative from the Youth Parliament asked several questions relating to students, timetables and discount tickets, and Mr Walker's colleague, Dave McCallum, arranged to meet him separately. Mr Walker admitted that Stagecoach had experienced a lot of breakdowns recently but hopefully this will improve. They took delivery of 11 new coaches and single deck buses between July and October last year and they are getting a further 11 brand new buses in April and May of this year. They have also opened a new depot in Inverness. A complaint was put to him that some drivers did not know the route they were on and had to ask the passengers, but he assured us that all their drivers have regular training sessions. Mr Walker is disappointed that there will be no 'Park and Ride' at the Tore roundabout when the Kessock Bridge is being repaired next year.

The above is a brief interpretation of the meeting, which in my opinion was very instructive.

Belle Maxwell  
7 March 2012

