

Assynt Community Council

2nd November 2017

Lochinver village Hall

19:30

Draft Minutes (Approved 30th November)

1. **Present:** Alex Dickson, Jess Thomas, Katherine Anderson, Liam Taylor, David Slator (Chair), Dave McBain, , Marianne Hutchison
Others present; Maureen Scott, PC Matt Stringer
2. **Apologies:** Roddie Kerr, Vanessa Ling, Phil Jones
3. Expressions of interest: none
4. **Minutes of September meeting:** proposed by Jess, seconded by Alex
Matters Arising:
 1. **Campervans** - the Cludgie Group has met, lots of emails have been exchanged and progress made. The group is hopeful that the site for the waste disposal unit will be at the Glac Madeline attended a multi-agency meeting at the Storehouse, Evanton. A bid for funding may be made to the nearly £6.5 million of public sector support the Scottish tourism industry is set to benefit from.
 2. **Late bus** - individuals to continue to encourage those interested in this job to come forward and apply
 3. **Deer in Lochinver /ACA Fencing Project (Culag Park)**
There was a discussion re the hazard presented by deer on the main road at the Glac/Inver Bridge, exacerbated by people feeding them. Recently there have been 2 accidents involving deer as cars were arriving at Lochinver.
Action: PC Matt Stringer will appeal to people to stop feeding deer in and around the village.
The Culag Park fencing project is making slow progress: ACA is waiting (a) for quotes from fencing contractors and (b) for a decision from SSE re whether or not they can help with the felling of trees, as part of their community support activity.
 4. **Geopark/Rockstop** - George Farlow has resigned as Chair and has been replaced by David Macleod of Tongue
Geopod - the Geopark group would like a decision from ACC re the siting of a Geopod at either the top of the Glac or Kylestrome ie. either end of the Pebble Route. ACC would like to wait to see if the cludgie(campervan waste disposal unit) is going to be at the Glac so decided that, if the Geopark need a decision now, the Geopod should go at Kylestrome.
 5. **War Memorial Repair** - preparation ongoing - contractor to consider suitability of available scaffolding
 6. **ATM** - working today & Alex reported that the problem had been failure by the installer to seal the ATM unit to the wall. The IBM engineer is now confident that it will be fine now.

7. **Cattle on roads, Stoer** - PC Stringer is aware of the issue and has given advice to people involved
8. **Stoer church** - the public meeting took place on 16/10/17. The building has been de-listed and the owner will be making a new application for planning permission.
9. **ACC website** - This will be progressed by advertising for someone to set up and manage the website - everyone is happy to leave this with Vanessa.
- 10.
11. The '**Better Conversations**' Roadshow meeting on 26/10/17 was well attended
12. **Lochinver Primary School heating** - this issue has been discussed with the head teacher and it transpires the matter had already been brought to the attention of the maintenance department before the initial concerns were raised with the ACC.

AGENDA

5. **Financial Report:**

Business account balance - £104.83

Reserve Account balance - £4274.25

6. **Correspondence** - none

7. **Community Services:**

(a) **Public Toilets** -

Action - Alex is going to meet with the relevant HC official and the local employee to discuss any urgent work required

(b) **Salt Dump** - there is a problem with the design of the new salt dump re a concern about the depth of rock to be dug down to. John Clark will make sure that there is salt at the old salt dump. The reaction of the meeting to this information was one of acute disappointment. There was a heated discussion about the number of years we have been presenting this issue to HC as a priority, have received promises of imminent resolution but no resolution has been reached.

Action - David will contact William Gilfillan to convey ACC's dissatisfaction re. the salt dump and desire for his urgent attention to be directed to this issue.

(c) **Play Park equipment** - Jess and Liam voiced concern that the new equipment is yet to be installed.

Action - Alex will talk to Ewan Marsh(HC) about this

(d) **Clashnessie cattlegrid** - installation is planned for the very near future

(e) **Vacancy for Assistant Foreman, community Services** - one in-house application has been made

(f) **No through road signs for Badidarroch / Glendarroch** - ongoing, Alex has spoken with John Clark about this

(g) Arrows on road - Joanne Sutherland, HC Roads Engineer will arrange for HC to check if this can be done at the places ACC has suggested. There was also a suggestion for arrows to be placed at T junctions reminding drivers to drive on the left.

8. **Litter** - David has spoken to Andy Shaw:

(a) The Highland Council NC500 working group is looking at litter, bins etc and will produce a report/review. The HC view appears to be that more collections, rather than more bins, is the answer.

(b) The problem of householders putting rubbish into community bins has been addressed

(c) The group has asked NC500 to inform tourists re. how and where to dispose of rubbish correctly

(d) The new bins in Ullapool are sponsored by local businesses

Action - Marianne will ask George Farlow about the cost of the new bins and who empties them

9. **Polling Station survey/review** - David will respond saying that Lochinver Village Hall must be our polling station, not the school.

10. **Consultation on proposed changes to Highland constituency boundaries** - AC Councillors unanimously disagreed with the proposed changes, on the grounds that this would weaken the representation and, thus, democracy of our area and it would be impossible for one person to interact with/represent the proposed constituency. ACC agreed to respond to the consultation with a statement prepared by Vanessa (attached) with an additional, important amendment from Dave: not only would this be the largest constituency in Scotland, it would be the largest in the whole UK.

Action: Vanessa will send our response before the December deadline

Action: David will raise this issue at the forthcoming meeting of the 6 NW Community Councils and inform the others of our response.

11. **Geopod** - see Matters Arising

12. **ACC Website** - see Matters Arising

13. **Allocation of ACC funds** - Vanessa is working on an application form

14. **AOCB** - none!

The meeting closed at 20:40

Next meeting: November 30th 2017