

DORNIE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING IN DORNIE HALL 28th March 2011

Present: Mike Fordyce, Kenny Fraser, Graham Hewitt, Angus MacDonald, Fay MacKenzie, Shona MacLennan, Suzanne Meikle, Janice Nixon, Angus Peterkin, Nina Shanks

In Attendance: Greg Dobson; Jonathan MacSween

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as true and fair. (Proposer: Suzanne; Secondor: Janice)

Treasurer's Report: Suzanne reported a balance of £827.70.

Matters Arising – Carr Brae Road: The secretary had heard from George Speed that the Council would take over the drain clearing at the feeding station, next time a machine was in the area.

- **Planning Application Upper Ardelve:** The Forestry Commission had visited the site of the tree felling but concluded that since the felling had taken place over 2 calendar quarters it did not require a licence.

- **Lucky2Bhere – defibrillator offer:** Fay reported that she had been in touch with Ross Cowie who explained the legal situation and the kind of training which would be given. The equipment could be kept in local premises or in a secure box mounted outside. It was agreed to invite Ross to an open meeting for the whole community within the next couple of months to take this offer further.

- **Lighting at Carr Brae Development:** The secretary wrote to the Housing Association regarding the level of street lighting at the development and was advised to contact the Council as it was their responsibility. Robbie Milne of Street Lighting, Fort William replied explaining that they had to follow guidelines laid down by national bodies.

The CC reiterated its belief that the level and quantity of lighting at Carr Brae was excessive and intrusive and that the lights mounted on the Day Care Centre were particularly objectionable. HC TECS committee recently agreed to trial reductions in street lighting and agreed that in future developments of more than 15 properties should have street lighting.

The chair wondered if the development had any backup in the event of a power cut for the all-electric properties. The secretary will write to HC and the Housing Association for further information.

Stornoway Coast Guard Station: The chair spoke about the consultation regarding the reorganization of the Coast Guard Agency which would result in the Stornoway station being a day-time only service. The CC agreed to submit a response. The consultation questionnaire is available online: <http://www.smart-survey.co.uk/v.asp?i=29422xkfhs> and is open until 5th May.

Dog Fouling: Members reported that dog fouling was still an issue and that many dog owners were failing to clean up after their pets. HC supplied a number of signs which will be erected locally and the CC urges all owners to act responsibly as dog faeces is not only offensive but can be a health risk to children.

Correspondence: Highland Council issued the new Scheme for CC's. The main points were that a new council-wide constitution should be adopted by June 2011 and elections would take place in November.

There were also communications from Northern Constabulary on their response to police restructuring proposals and from SNH on the Affric-Cannich Hill SSSI.

Highland Community Care Forum Newsletter – The CC was concerned to learn this would be the last newsletter and that the development worker was being made redundant. Government and Local Authority

cutbacks will result in many valuable community services, particularly for the elderly and vulnerable being lost. Nina explained that the local lunch club was in need of funds if it was to survive.

AOCB: The CC welcomed Gregg Dobson who gave a presentation on behalf of a small local collective for a proposal to re-use Graham House as a multifunctional Arts and Creative Centre comprising spaces for artists, craftspeople and performance artists as well as possibilities for retail, college, club, garden and vocational activities. The proposal is available on our website.

The CC unanimously gave its support to the idea and hoped the group could source funds necessary to bring the proposal to fruition as it would give Dornie a much-needed and valuable resource.

- Skips: HC has decided to terminate the provision of community skips in Skye and Lochalsh. The CC felt that although the Council's reasons for this were understandable in terms of policy, it was a regrettable decision. Skips provided a well used local service and helped prevent the sort of fly-tipping which disfigures many rural areas. Local residents will either have to use the bulky uplift service, for which a charge is levied or make a long journey to Portree.
- Wooden Bench: 'The bench at the west end of the bridge which was in poor condition has been removed. The CC agreed to approach the Forestry Commission for a replacement.
- Housing: The chair was worried that young local people had difficulty getting housing. There was some discussion of the merits of the existing system and one which gave more weight to local people and the Chair agreed to write to the Scottish Government expressing concern that young people, the lifeblood and future of rural communities, were disadvantaged by the present set up.

Secretary: Graham Hewitt, Ar Dachaidh 555363. secydorniecc@btinternet.com (these minutes are available by email)

Website: The Dornie CC website carries news of meetings, issues, consultations etc as well as the minutes of CC meetings. Log on to <http://www.dornie.org.uk/> for all the latest news.