

Community Council meeting minutes – 2 June, 7pm

Present:

Ann Barton

Alex MacInnes

Natalya Revitt (Chair)

Hugh Gosling

Francois Raulier (Treasurer)

Kalie Wilkinson

Apologies:

Hannah Cundiff (Secretary)

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were officially approved.

Matters Arising

Coronavirus

Care packages

The location has moved from Nanny's to the village hall. Use of the hall has been granted by the Church but just for Hugh, Hannah and the two volunteers. Hugh to liaise with Janene/Pauline regarding changing the key code, given the value of the goods inside. A move to money/vouchers was discussed. We need more space for refrigeration; FR to investigate.

Fuel assistance

A new email address has been set up (sccfuelcards@gmail.com). One new application has been received; it was approved and the heating oil delivered.

Grub Hub

Thanks to Hugh and Wayne for painting the cupboard. The sign for the side of the building should be put up by the end of the week. NR to investigate whether we can include fresh produce, perhaps grown by members of the community (see Funding).

Mask and sanitiser packs

We have received a steady stream of requests for packs. Many have been made and distributed. AB has received £20 in donations.

Funding

NR/FR has spoken to Henrik from HIE regards future funding. More money (£16,500) is available from mid-July to fund projects through to the end of September. A form will be issued mid-June to apply. There is also money for mental health initiatives. FR believes we need £78,000 to see us through to Spring 2021. HIE offered no information on funding beyond September. The Lottery has offered detailed guidance on how to fill out their form for extra funding. It was agreed that we would do all we could to secure any additional funding.

Community allotment grant

NR is looking to apply for a grant for community gardens to grow fresh produce. The grant is for £5,000.

Local employment opportunities

NR has received a request to cut back trees in front of the bench near Ann Barton's house. John MacGregor has repaired the old pier. The fencing around the cattle grids is the responsibility of the Highland Council.

Planning

No new applications. KW has read the application for MOWI fish farm and liaised with Janene. No action is required.

Mental health and wellbeing

FR reached out to Dolina Munro to consult on potential projects to support the mental health of local residents. FR will put together a funding bid to the Lottery. Potential projects include one-to-one counselling, a support group, cognitive behavioural therapy, children's play therapy, mindfulness and drug/alcohol counselling and relationship counselling. FR to reach out to a second mental health professional.

Mobile phone reception/mast

Andy Moys raised the issue of the lack of mobile phone signal in the village. KW has spoken to Stuart Robertson, Director of Digital, Highlands and Islands, who reported that planned rural improvements are resuming and suggests we write to the Highland Council (AM to find out who to write to) and lobby politicians. The R100 programme should have connected all rural communities by Spring 2021 but it has been delayed.

Lifting Lockdown

Nanny's hopes to reopen at the start of Phase II. The hotel is discussing when and how to open. The campsite intends to open at the start of Phase III, although only to campervans, with all campsite facilities closed. It would be appropriate to take down the 'village closed' sign when these businesses open. It was discussed whether we should replace this with a sign asking visitors to be considerate of local residents. We will publish the next newsletter w/c 8 June.

Chair's Report

None.

Treasurer's Report

We have received £15,050 since the last meeting. Expenditure has been £2,778. Year to date, revenue has been £37,776.62 and expenditure £11,670.38 (non-coronavirus related costs: £589.96, Fuel Cards: £5,263.63, Care Packages/Grub Hub/PPE: £4,156.83, other coronavirus initiatives: £1,659.96). At this rate of spending, this funding should last to the end of August. 2019-20 accounts are prepared.

Secretary's Report

No correspondence has been received.

AOCB

Book swap/Phone box

The box is nearly full! Thanks to all for donating books to the swap. AM to continue to investigate the situation with taking over the phone box.

Plant and seed exchange

NR has asked Keith Mackay to help and Keith McNicoll to make a cold-frame type container.

Dangerous driving of lorries – Applecross Hydro Scheme

KW has spoken to MacKenzie Sutherland (Highland Council), Archie Maclellan (Applecross Trust) and Kenny the contractor about the speeding and dangerous driving of lorries bringing in aggregate along the coast road. The company has committed to lorries only being on the road between 7am to 7pm. They can make up to 48 journeys per day.

Breaches of lockdown

Some residents are breaking lockdown rules, particularly on Thursday night. Under Phase 1, the public are urged to stay at home as much as possible and maintain strict physical distancing when outdoors. Two households will be allowed to meet in outdoor spaces up to a suggested maximum of eight people.

Fire risk

Torrison Fire and Mountain Rescue ask that we notify them of any individuals who may be at high risk of fire. They will arrange a visit to check the house.

Date of next meeting

16 June 2020. This will be the AGM.