

Draft Minutes of Torridon and Kinlochewe Community Council Meeting held in Torridon Hall

on Wednesday 12th February 2020 from 7pm - 9 pm

Present : Ward Manager Robbie Bain , Anne Macrae, Colin Stevenson, Margaret Smith, Caroline Hamilton, Tom Forrest, 3 Members of the Public – Jo Harris, Emily John and Seamus MacNally, Scottish Fire Service

Apologies : Carol MacIver, Cllr. Alex MacInnes

1. Appointment of Office Bearers

The meeting was opened and chaired by Ward Manager , Robbie Bain who explained that outgoing office bearers were still in charge of any assets until new office bearers were elected and took on the responsibility.

It was agreed that Caroline Hamilton take on the position of Chairperson and that Anne Macrae continue as Secretary. There is also the possibility of appointing a Minutes Secretary if required. The Treasurer post was not filled but we do have places for two more co-opted Community Councillors and two 16 – 18 Youth Councillors who will have full voting rights. We were pleased to hear that Emma MacDonald, Kinlochewe has already expressed interest through Gairloch High School and we would be pleased to hear from anyone else interested in becoming a Community Councillor.

Our thanks to outgoing Community Councillors Terry Doe , Andrew Peacock and Jonathon Petrie for their work in recent years.

2. Adoption of the Constitution and Standing Orders

It was agreed to adopt the Constitution and Standing Orders as set out at Appendices 3 and 4 of the Scheme of Establishment. This is available online and Robbie also distributed paper copies.

The Scheme encompasses a suite of documents which include Boundary Maps, Membership numbers, Constitution, Standing Orders and the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors.

These documents are designed to support the operation of Community Councils across the Highland Region.

3. Associate Membership

Community Councils are able to grant Associate Membership to key groups within the area such as parent councils etc.

4. Future Meeting Dates

It was agreed to hold meetings every two months starting on 3 April 2020, then on dates to be agreed in June (+ AGM), August, October and December 2020 and February 2021.

5. Report from Local Fire Service Crew

Emily and Seamus gave an informative update on the Torridon Fire Service. It has been an average year with 18 call outs ranging from house fires to RTCs and a cow stuck in a bog. This is the first year working with the new fire appliance and local fire fighters meet for training nights from 7pm on Mondays and Thursdays. So far it has been a quiet winter with no call outs since October 2019.

The crew are available to do fire safety visits to reduce the risk of fire in local homes.

Spring is traditionally Wildfire Season and it was noted that Wester Ross Biosphere and Highland Environmental Forum are co-hosting a Wildfire Awareness Week at the beginning of March culminating in a meeting to be held in Kinlochewe on 6th March. Emily and Seamus were thanked for their presentation and the great job local crews do.

6. Issues arising Previous Minutes

At the last meeting in October 2019, it had been agreed that items from the September minutes be carried forward to the new Community Council:

Roads

Speed calming measures are still to be put in place at Kinlochewe and it was noted that this issue had spanned the entire four year service of previous Community Councillors. It was good to get the electronic sign back in the village and happily it is still working correctly. The state of the crumbling road along Torridon Glen remains an issue with particularly bad surface along by Coulin and Loch Claire . Potholes continue to appear after rain with the patch by West Lodge a recurring problem.

Memorial Bench – Kinlochewe

The bench is now in position by the Kinlochewe War Memorial, paid for by Torridon and Kinlochewe Community Council.

Mast - Kinlochewe

We have no more news on the planning application for a 12m electronic smart mast to be placed to the rear of Kinlochewe Hall.

Future of Torridon School

Lack of maintenance by Highland Council remains an ongoing problem. Robbie Bain said the school remains mothballed and said he would pass on our concerns about the state of the building.

Torridon Play Park

There was considerable discussion about the need to repair and maintain the Play Park facilities. Gates need to be replaced and fencing and wooden cabins are also in a bad state.

Robbie Bain confirmed that the Highland Council is responsible for the health and safety of the Park. He said the Council has no funds available to maintain the Park, therefore if any equipment is found to be unsafe during safety inspections, it usually has to remove it.

It was agreed the Park is a valuable community asset, used by local and visiting families. The Community Council has tried very hard over the years to get the Highland Council to take more action, unfortunately with no success.

It was agreed to try and interest local residents into taking over responsibility for the Park, including through fundraising such as through donation boxes – **Caroline to write to a potentially interested party.**

Also the Community Council will request a donation from the Ward 5 Discretionary fund. – **Anne and Maggie to action.**

Mess at Glen Docherty Viewpoint

The problem of rubbish spilling from bins remains a problem – **Anne to investigate possible metal double bin covers as seen around Ullapool.**

Tom suggested having no bins at all might ease the problem. Robbie also highlighted the problem of rubbish being left in laybys on the A832 Achnasheen to Garve road.

Wester Ross Biosphere

The National Youth Strategy was responded to and funding has been granted to allow some young representatives (13-18yrs old) to participate in a Climate Change project in Dublin

A two day conference is being hosted by the Biosphere with Visit Wester Ross in Gairloch Hotel on Monday 9th & Tuesday 10th March. Among speakers will be Senior Youth Reps Gemma Urquhart and Heather Fulton.

Future Agendas and Minutes

It was noted that as per the Community Council's Scheme of Establishment, one of our primary purposes is "to ascertain, co-ordinate and express to the local authorities for its area, and to public authorities, the views of the community which it represents".

It was therefore agreed that notices should be put on noticeboards throughout the area inviting residents to contact the Community Council if there was anything we could help with. Responses could also inform future agendas for meetings – **Caroline to action.**

A.O.B.

Maggie raised concern over new rules which may prevent John Napier from being able to collect and dispose of local scrap material. It was noted this is a most useful service and we would not want to see it end.

Celtman have asked if the Borrow Pits along Glen Torridon could be opened up for parking to help avoid congestion at transition during the race. There are plans to also use Corrie Dubh Car Park and run a shuttle minibus to help too.

Tom said he is on the Local Access Forum. He also highlighted that the Cape Wrath Ultra will be making use of the hall and neighbouring field in Kinlochewe in May as participants make their way North from Fort William.

Tom expressed continued concern over insurance and health and safety issues related to the running of the Bealach Mor Cycle Races following an incident he was involved in which is still ongoing.

7. **Date of next meeting** Friday 3rd April at 7pm in Kinlochewe Hall.