

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

on Wednesday 11th September 2019 from 7.10pm - 8.30 pm

Present : Terry Doe (Chairman) Anne Macrae (Secretary) Andrew Peacock (Treasurer) Colin Stevenson, Carol MacIver, Jonnie Petrie, 3 Members of the Public – David & Lilah Ford and Tom Forrest.

Apologies : Margaret Smith Cllr. Alex MacInnes

1. Welcome from the Chair.

We had expected Louise Pearson , GALE Centre to present an introduction on ‘ Planning for Real ’ in relation to Kinlochewe Village but unfortunately she thought it was the following night.

We look forward to hearing more about the project in the future.

2. **Financial Report** Andrew reported no change. The account stands at £1054.14 with £9.15 in petty cash. We have now received an invoice from the Manager for hire of Torridon Hall, as requested.

3. **Correspondence-** Anne gave a run down on correspondence received:

Between Iain MonCrieff and Jonnie Petrie re. road calming proposals at Kinlochewe.

Louise Pearson , GALE Centre – Planning for Real.

E mail from Dan Rose-Bristow re. Clay Pigeon Shooting at the Torridon.

Letter from Karen Starr

Policy – Highland Council , Community Council Review

Timetable for forthcoming Community Council Elections

E mail from Paul McGreal, Celtman, regarding parking problems at T2A in Torridon Glen

Minutes from other Ward 6 Community Councils continue to be circulated by Kenny MacLean.

Planning Lists.

4. **Planning**

Installation of 12m high smart meter mast and ancillary development

Land 40M SE of 1 Slioch Terrace , Kinlochewe Ref. No. 19/03043/FUL

Request for Screening Option – Catchment extension to Gleann a Muice Hydro Scheme

Ref. No. 19/02678/SCRE

Demolition of outbuilding and erection of house and garage Still under consideration.

Land 50M N of Bayview, Annat, Torridon Ref. No. 19/02022/FUL

5. **Minutes of the August Meeting** were read and agreed.

Tom Forrest remarked that at the June meeting held in Torridon, it had not been noted in the minutes that he had asked Norma Young about issues in 2012 relating to the Mothballing of Torridon School which Mrs Young had declined to discuss.

6. **Matters arising**

Roads

Jonnie has met with Iain MonCrieff in Dingwall to discuss proposals for traffic calming in Kinlochewe.

He outlined suggestions including various road markings , speed cushions and a road build out to be situated by the MacDonald’s house along from the bridge, displaying drawings of locations on his i pad which will be put in a more formal plan. The proposals relate to all three approaches to Kinlochewe village.

It was noted that the approach coming from Gairloch has caused the most concern for many years now.

It is hoped to extend the footpath on the Torridon road from the sign to the village hall.

These improvements should now be top of the works list and we thank our local Ward Councillors Alex and Derek for helping progress plans.

Memorial Bench

Andrew shared information and a photo of a wooden bench he had sourced online and it was agreed that we go ahead and order it in the hope it can be in position by the Kinlochewe War Memorial by November.

Future of Torridon School and Play Park

It is now almost a year since Gavin Allday assessed and noted maintenance needs in both Torridon Primary and the Schoolhouse without any progress or improvement.

Care and maintenance, especially heating needs, as winter approaches remain a significant concern to avoid deterioration of the building as in the case of Achnasheen School (now demolished) and Kinlochewe Schoolhouse. (sold off.) We wish to see the school put to productive educational use and a number of suggestions have been made from the community including intergenerational learning, playgroup, youth activities, heritage, culture and nature related work.

Maintenance of wooden structures in the Play park remains an issue as detailed in previous minutes.

As entrance gates are such an important safety feature for young ones and to help keep the deer out, we are applying to the local Ward Discretionary Fund for help with gates and fences.

It was noted that we may be able to source wood for the bench from a timber firm in Strathpeffer. It is noted that whilst number of pupils in Kinlochewe have fallen significantly, numbers in Shieldaig are steadily rising putting pressure on space available within the building.

Mess at Glen Docherty Viewpoint Bin

There are now two bins placed at the Viewpoint. One has a small hole in the lid and the other has a lid that lifts. We will monitor the situation in the hope that this helps prevent the amount of litter that is left and swept across the hill. It would be appreciated that anyone passing by with time, keep us updated on how effective the two bins are

Noise from Clay Pigeon Shooting at Torridon Hotel

Noise from shooting remains an issue for many Torridon residents with a number of phone calls being made to the Hotel regarding the gunfire echoing around the hills. It is hoped a change in cartridges or direction may help the problem.

Wester Ross Biosphere

It is hoped to gather the views of local youth (11- 29) and Youth Workers to help Scottish Government with their new National Youth Strategy and a Wester Ross Youth Conference is being planned in October 2019.

26 year old Heather Fulton from Laide has attended an International MAB Youth Forum held in Changbaishan Biosphere, NE China in September. She then went on to the UN Youth Summit in New York to represent all Biospheres in the UK and Ireland.

Up to date information can be found on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts and a new website wrb.scot

Bealach Mor Cycle Events

Tom expressed 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. He also shared e mails related to his case. Terry agreed to make contact with the organisers to clarify some details.

Torridon & District Community Association (TDCA) – Café Proposal

Few at the meeting were aware of the proposal by Lis Broome to open a café, leasing the Function Room and both Kitchens for 3 – 5 years in the Loch Torridon Community Centre. There was surprise that the news was only given to those on Pete Meredith's Visit Torridon circulation list and at the very short 8 day consultation period. Members of the public with disability issues expressed concern at the proposal that groups such as churches should be moved upstairs to make way for the café. It was noted that in recent years, the Centre Manager and Directors have discouraged the use of the facilities in the new wing outwith the limited hours that someone is on reception duty so it is no surprise that meeting rooms have been used only 10% of the time. The Community Council itself would have made much more use of the Function Room if we had been allowed to hire it as it is a more suitable size for hearing, internet access and is heated anyway. It was agreed to share the information given out on the Library page of our Community Council Website.

8.Date of next meeting Our next meeting is scheduled for 7pm on 9th October 2019 at 7pm in Torridon Hall.