

Ardross Community Council

Minutes of Management Meeting

8th April 2024

8.00pm

Ardross Community Hall

Present: Peter Allen (Chair), John Edmondson (Secretary), Alison Gordon (Treasurer), David Bentley, George Mackay and Elliott Blaauw.

Imogen Percy-Bell (Highland Council)

James McDougall, Claire Brett, Derek Russell, Clair Bale and Lucy Moseley

Meeting started at 8.00 pm.

1. There were apologies from Emma Chisholm, Cllr Maxine Smith, the Jenny Wychrij and Sandra Cunliffe.
2. The Chair introduced Imogen Percy-Bell Principal Waste Management Officer in the Highland Council [HC] who was here to explain about the new changes to waste and recycling collection in the area. Using presentation she went on to explain about the need for changing the way that waste and recycling was being collected. The HC had been awarded a grant of £6M to change and improve the recycling rates in the Highlands. This was to be done by collecting some waste separately to sell as a commodity, reduce the bin size to collect non-recyclables to encourage recycling. This was done in May 2024.

In November 2022 an analysis of what was in households non-recyclable bins was done and a staggering 35% by weight was food. A further 26% was made up items that could be recycled such as metals, plastics, glass, electrical items and also clothing. We need to change this and encourage less waste but also more recycling.

There were 3 different routes in Ardross, but everyone should have received a letter explaining the changes, although some present had not received their letters. Some found the letter wasn't clear about exactly when the changes were to take place, the mechanics. Imogen explained that it would hopefully be clearer when the new bins were rolled out with a timetable and stickers for the bins. And new leaflets to explain what can and cannot be recycled.

Larger urban areas were getting a food waste collection but that was not the case in Ardross where composting was encouraged. Of course having 3 bins and collecting waste and recycling in the home was difficult for some, they simply don't have room in their house for all these different types of collection.

There followed some questions surrounding B&B's, the problems of recycle commodity prices despite HC long term contracts, and glass recycling which some

Local Authorities did and despite the desire of the Scottish Government to bring all Scottish Local Authorities into line the HC were resisting.

The use of landfill sites for domestic were to be banned from 2025 and so the only alternatives were incineration, so it was imperative that recycling rates increased. Although there was some evidence that areas that used incineration extensively saw a decline in recycling rates.

James McDougall was concerned that the Longman landfill site had been closed prematurely without any consideration for how the waste from the Highlands was to be dealt with. And the impact of trucking it down the A9 or A96. There was a complete lack of foresight.

The Chair thanked Imogen who then left the meeting.

3. The March Management Meeting Minutes were approved.
4. The Secretary had approached Edderton CC to see some improvement on the B9176 maintenance and safety improvement. They had now come back to say they thought that this was a good idea. However what was interesting was that Kilmuir and Easter Logie Community Council also had some of the B9176 in their area just after the first cattle grid. Something we might want to discuss at the next boundary consultation.

The Secretary explained that he had managed to talk to Iain Moncrieff Head of Roads at the HC. Iain promised to ask his engineers to get in touch about the Lealty Bridge. He was still to submit suggested drawings about the Dalnavie cross-roads. Stitenham Bends however had been completed.

The access at Loch Dubh had been altered, but there was still an issue about the sign that had been taken down to the Car Park which was actually a Planning Condition.

The Secretary had written to Phil Tomalin regarding community benefit and the effect of any payments from Beinn Tharsuinn should the Cromarty Hydrogen project go ahead.

The Secretary explained that the Land Agents for Novar were not known to him. He wondered if anyone else knew people who worked for Novar and whether they could make enquiries about their intention.

Community Transport would have to wait until next meeting.

5. The Secretary had attended an online meeting for Peoples and Places. A lot of it was staying the obvious, and he had emphasised that Ardrross had no public transport and that a lot of the issues we had didn't seem to be the same as most of the rest of Easter Ross. They closed the meeting with asking Ardrross about their community benefit, the Secretary had explained that like many communities in Easter Ross we received community benefit, but unlike many we actually had the windfarms in our area. We spent it wisely on large projects. There were many restrictions on the way that the money could be spent. And he couldn't recall Tain sharing out their common good fund. It appeared to the Secretary that there was a definite move by some Highland Councillors to make move for Ardrross' money and certainly ensure that any future renewable developments see that areas unaffected by the development got a large share of the community benefit on offer.

Elliott Blaauw explained that the fruit trees had now been distributed.

Other correspondence previously circulated was noted.

6. Elliott went on to discuss the brief about the Nature Site Surveys. Everybody was in agreement that it should go ahead, there was some discussion as to whether to mention a sum for any tender. It was hoped that it would just be a desktop study, but the level of detail that was expected could be indicated by an estimated tender price. A guide price of £5,000 was agreed.
7. The Treasurer distributed and presented her Report the contents of which were noted.

Applications had finished for the Energy Payment Grants.

A total of £112,446.83 since April 1st 2023 had been made to eligible projects.

The Santander Account was yet to be opened.

8. John Edmondson had some concern over the trees at Achandunie and strange markings and wondered if anyone else knew anything about it.

It was agreed to sponsor for the sum of £200 an Ardross entrant in the Scottish Ploughing Match in October. This was agreed if acknowledged in promotional/vehicle material.

9. There was a separate application for a new 20km water mains being submitted, but at pre-application stage. There was a further meeting on the 23rd of April in the Hall. It will be interesting to see whether any of the comments had been adopted by Scottish Water. We had not had a straight answer as to why the two applications had not been considered together.

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting.

Next Meeting is a Management Meeting on the **13^h May 2024 8.00pm** at the Ardross Community Hall

ITEM	To Whom	WHO	Date	Status
CAR PARK SIGN	Matt Dent HC	JME	April	OPEN
FLS	FLS	EB	April	WATCHING
B9176	Edderton CC	JME	April	CLOSED
BANK ACCOUNT	Santander	AG	Feb	OPEN
ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY	Conservation Group	EB	March	OPEN
DALNAVIE CROSS-ROADS	Roads Department	JME	April	OPEN
LEALTY BRIDGE	Iain Moncrieff	JME	April	OPEN

ITEM	To Whom	WHO	Date	Status
BEINN THARSUINN	Phil Tomalin	JME	March	OPEN
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT	Ardross Primary Parent Forum	JW	March	OPEN
CUILICH BRIDGES	Novar	?	April	OPEN

