

# Ardross Community Council [ACC]

## Minutes of Management Meeting

8<sup>th</sup> July 2024

8.00pm

### Ardross Community Hall

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

Jen Campbell and Jenny Wrychij (Ardross Primary Parent Council [APPC])

James McDougall, Claire Brett, Derek Russell, Gillian Winter, Clair Bale, Jane Smith and Sheila Campbell-Lloyd.

Meeting started at 8.00 pm.

1. There were apologies from Sandra Cunliffe.
2. The June Management Meeting Minutes were approved.
3. The Secretary explained that he had written to Studio Lambert and hadn't heard back. It was pointed out that the next series was going to be made up of celebrities and it was likely that the Security staff were going to be even more aggressive. Elliott Blaauw had stated that he had a confrontation with the Security staff just recently and they hadn't been very pleasant.

The Roads Engineer had got back in touch with us regarding the bridge at Lealty. Funding had become available to start working out plans for how to undertake the work, but any work was unlikely to be undertaken until 2025. One of the main problems was keeping the lifeline road open whilst the work was underway.

The School speed limit lights had now been fixed. But we were still waiting for the drawings to be done for the junction at the Dalnavie cross-roads.

The Chair had try to pursue Scottish Power for subsidising the school bus, but had not been able to talk to the person involved. The **Chair** to pursue this. The meeting of the Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Community Benefit Fund had been really an update and there was nothing much to report.

David Bentley reported that the Cuillich Bridges were being repaired. So these will last until the next large floods.

There was still extreme concern about the cutting of the trees to make way for the turbine blade movements; the trees with Tree Preservation Orders, the oaks and the Scots Pine at the junction with the B9176. They hadn't done the dry run yet and so it was difficult to ascertain the exact extent of the felling or lopping. But if EnergieKontor

wanted to cut above 5m above the road, depending on the boundary of the property on the Title Deeds then they would need landowner permission. What was interesting was that the work BT Openreach had planned and was up on the Roads Commissioner website had been removed. It was agreed to put something in the Newsletter. There was general agreement that EnergieKontor had behaved poorly in cutting out the local community. They had done this by obtaining a change to the conditions determined by the Government Reporter via a S42 amendment approved by the North Area Planning Committee. The **Secretary** agreed to find out how the voting went on this Application.

The Secretary was still pursuing the road and core path closures.

4. James McDougall had written to the Secretary about an abandoned caravan. The **Secretary** would pursue it with the Community Works Officer.

Other correspondence previously circulated was noted.

5. The Chair and Secretary had had various correspondence with the APPC. The Secretary had replied to this correspondence, which Jen Campbell stated had been very helpful. Long discussions ensued about the best solution for the school and the community surrounding the bus provision. It was noted that the Alness & District Community Bus had ordered a new bus and were awaiting delivery, it had been on order for sometime. Jen Campbell stated that the APPC were still to discuss and agree exactly on what they wanted and that they would get back to the community council later after the summer holidays. The Community Council did agree in principle to help with the school transport, but were really waiting for a more concrete proposal to discuss. It was pointed out that there were other funding streams possibly available such as the offshore wind farm funds. Also SSEN were launching a new fund in September and this might be an avenue to explore.
6. Elliott Blaauw gave an update on the Ecology Survey. Cathel was still doing the desktop work, contacting various groups before doing some ground work. However a lot of the environmental information on some red-listed species was not in the public domain and this made his task harder. Cathel was still keen to meet with the community.
7. David Bentley then made a presentation about an Ardross Local Place Plan. The slides from the presentation had been circulated earlier. A Local Place Plan fed into the Development Plans being produced by the Highland Council, the cut off for submission is officially September 2024 although there was some flexibility for this. It was an opportunity for the Community Council to consult the community on its aspirations and needs for the area and feed this into the Highland Council's services across the board. It was agreed that this would be a good thing for Ardross to do, there would be minimal resource implications. Other areas were doing it and the Black Isle and Strath Errick were a lot further forward and would be useful contacts. David Bentley asked for volunteers to get in touch with him, and asked the **Secretary** to set up a generic email address.

It was also agreed that a open day drop-in meeting in the Hall with maps and Post-It notes would be a good initial start, combining it with the Ecology Survey and Energy Efficiency Project.

8. Emma Chisholm confirmed that an entry had been submitted for the Newsletter asking people to register an interest in the Energy Efficiency Project. Once these had started

coming in then for could start on compiling the EPC data if any for each property. The Highland Council had indicated that ~30 properties were required to make the Project viable, it wasn't envisaged that this number would be hard to achieve.

9. The Treasurer distributed and presented her Report the contents of which were noted.

A total of £2,812.50 since April 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 had been made to eligible projects.

The Santander Account was yet to be opened.

10. There had been an accident at the Stittenham bends, the barriers had not been damaged. The Police were seen chasing some of the passengers over the fields. But two people were injured and had to be taken to hospital.
11. The main item up for discussion was a notification from RWE who operated Novar 2 wind farm that they intended to go to the Scottish Government for a Scoping Opinion for a wind farm between Cnoc Fyrish and the Novar 1 wind farm. This would mean a 50MW+ wind farm with lit turbines in excess of 200m high. Details were however sketchy and until more details emerged then it was difficult to make any assessment. There was however dismay that yet another windfarm was being planned so close to Ardross and the Castle, on top of all the other development already in place and being constructed.

An application for a large house on a derelict building site near Millcraig/Culrain was also considered, it was decided not to make a comment.

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting.

Next Meeting is a Management Meeting on the **12<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 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
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
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT	Ardross Primary Parent Forum	JW	March	OPEN
CUILICH BRIDGES	Novar	?	April	CLOSED
ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT	THC Climate Change Environment Team	EC	May	OPEN

ITEM	To Whom	WHO	Date	Status
GOLF COURSE ROAD	THC and EnergieKontor	ALL	May	OPEN
ROAD AND CORE PATH CLOSURES	THC and Studio Lambert	JME	June	OPEN
LOCAL PLACE PLAN	Ardross and THC	DB	June	OPEN
NEXT TRAITORS	Studio Lambert	JME	July	OPEN

