

DORNIE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING IN DORNIE HALL 28TH July 2008

Present: Mike Fordyce, Graham Hewitt, Angus MacDonald, Faye MacKenzie, Shona MacLennan, Suzanne Meikle, Janice Nixon, Angus Peterkin.

In Attendance: Cllr Biz Campbell. **Apologies:** Kenny Fraser, Nina Shanks

The Chair, Shona MacLennan opened the meeting by introducing Robbie Bain, Ward Manager for Wester Ross, Strathpeffer & Lochalsh. The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as true and fair (proposer M Fordyce, seconded S Meikle) and the Treasurer's report indicated a balance of £1478.56.

Robbie Bain spoke about the relationship between Highland Council and Community Councils, touching on several issues which were under discussion at national and regional level, including the draft scheme for the establishment of CC's and a code of conduct for members, the CC Constitution, CC's and the Data Protection Act, CC's remit to represent the views of the local community on issues such as planning, licensing, road maintenance and anything else which the community felt to be important. He also discussed the conduct & running of CC meetings. The Chair thanked Robbie for attending and for clarifying a number of issues which all members, particularly those new to the CC, found very useful.

Regarding planning and licensing applications, it was stated that the CC currently does not receive information on these and RB agreed to follow up the licensing information with the relevant official. Biz Campbell offered to speak to the Planning Department to ask about their procedure for informing community councils about applications in their area as no information was being received. It was also agreed that Shona MacLennan would draft a proposal for responding to planning applications and it should be brought to a meeting.

Correspondence: The secretary asked the meeting how they wished to deal with mail received, as much of it was simply information, requiring no action. The members agreed that only mail requiring a response should be brought to the meeting. The following items of mail were discussed.

- **Data Protection Act:** It was decided to defer taking a decision on whether to register under the Act until Highland Council had formulated its response to the Information Commissioner's Office.
- **Rural Schools:** the Scottish Government has launched a consultation on proposals to improve the way school closures are handled. There is an online version of the document and a response form for anyone who wishes to make their views known at: [Rural Schools Consultation](#)
- **Wester Ross Alliance:** a letter had been received from this organisation and it was decided to invite Chris Coniff to attend the next CC meeting and outline how they might benefit the local community.
- **Notifiable & Invasive Weeds:** the Council is compiling a list of sites where Japanese Knotweed and Ragwort are growing at the roadside. Please contact a Community Council member if you have any information on either of these species.

Roads/Grass Cutting: the grass-cutting of roadside verges had now been completed and everyone expressed satisfaction that a good job had been done. One small section of pathway between Camuslongart road end and Roddie's shop had not been cut as the pathway was blocked by bollards. The secretary will take this up with the George Speed along with the issue of the bridge lights and the provision of dog bins. Fay Mackenzie will contact Richard Johnstone regarding the painting of the underpass. It was agreed to invite the Transerve representative to a meeting to discuss various matters including lighting on the bridge and Biz Campbell offered to provide his contact details.

Payphone: the secretary had submitted the CC's response to the Council which had then been included in the Council's collated initial response of 4th June. This, together with all individual responses received up until 1st August will be forwarded to BT.

Fireworks: Fay MacKenzie requested the sum of £150 for the firework display and this was approved.

Water/Septic Tank: the proposed new water main and septic tank(s) at Brookside and Dornie were mentioned but no further information was available.

Website: it was agreed that Graham Hewitt would set up a website for the Community Council as a means of publishing information useful to the local community. If anyone wishes to help with this initiative, or has items of news, history, photos, local activities or anything else which would help the website develop please get in touch with the secretary. It was agreed that the CC fund would pay for the costs of having an advert-free site and for having an appropriate address for the site.

Date of next meeting: 29th September at 7.30 pm in Dornie Hall

Secretary: Graham Hewitt, Ar Dachaidh 555363. secydorniecc@btinternet.com (these minutes are also available by email)