

## **DORNIE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING IN DORNIE HALL 30<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

**Present:** Mike Fordyce, Kenny Fraser, Graham Hewitt, Faye MacKenzie, Shona MacLennan, Suzanne Meikle, Janice Nixon, Angus Peterkin, Nina Shanks.

**In Attendance:** Cllr Biz Campbell

**Apologies:** Angus MacDonald

The meeting was saddened to hear of the death of Bill Fulton, former HC Councillor and condolences were extended to his widow.

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as true and fair. (Proposer: Suzanne; Seconded: Angus Peterkin)

**Treasurer's Report:** Suzanne reported funds available of £650.49

**Housing Allocations Procedure – Tracey Urry:** Shona welcomed Tracey, Area Housing and Property Services Manager for Highland Council to the meeting who then spoke about the allocations procedure in Highland, with particular regard to the new housing development in Dornie being undertaken by Lochalsh & Skye Housing Association. The first phase is about to get under way and will consist of a Day Care Centre to replace Graham House and 8 special needs rented houses for the elderly.

The CC are concerned that local housing needs are addressed, but as Tracey explained the Council and their housing association partners are under a legal obligation to give reasonable preference to certain groups, such as those whose housing is unsatisfactory, including for example, cases of overcrowding or where the housing does not meet the tolerable standard, and to those who are homeless or who are threatened with homelessness.

The council operates a Common Housing Register so that applicants need apply only once to be considered for housing in the Highland area and thereafter allocations are based on a points system. Tracey gave some examples of how points are awarded, so that, for example, urgent medical needs and homelessness is assessed at 70 points while someone living in a caravan is assessed at 15 points. The applicant's preferred area is also taken into account when offering accommodation. As it is an open list any individual's place on the list can vary from day to day as new applicants appear on the register and others take up accommodation.

She also emphasized that although the Council has a statutory duty to house according to the Government's priorities, the Council could vary the points allocation if it so decided and we understand that they are looking at this.

The meeting thought it would be useful to gain an idea of the housing needs of folk and the needs of the community in general in Dornie and District so that we could bring this to the attention of Highland Council and the Housing Association.

Shona thanked Tracey for giving such a clear and full explanation of the allocations process and the statutory background, which resulted in some lively debate.

**Bridge Lights:** Bob Mitchell of Transport Scotland spoke to the secretary prior to the meeting to explain briefly the options being considered. It was intended to refurbish the lighting in the underpass and the lights to the underpass and the proposed new scheme varied from a minimum of lighting at the junction and bus stop to reinstating lights on the bridge using LED's. The meeting felt that re-lighting the bridge was undesirable, but there was some debate between those who wanted a minimum of lighting and those who felt more lighting was required to give pedestrians a view across the bridge. Bob will send the CC a summary of the options which will then be considered by the CC and the community and comments passed back to Bob.

**Correspondence:** The area Licensing Board is seeking views about proposals for extending Sunday opening hours. Members decided not to make any comment.

**Roads:** The road at Laggh had been repaired and the resurfacing had taken place at the entrance to Conchra Salt Depot. Ditching and verging is still scheduled for this road.

**Highland Spring Clean:** The spring clean will take place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April, meeting at Dornie Hall at 2 pm for a clean up of Ardelve Bay. Loch Long Community Association are also carrying out a spring clean in their area. HC will provide all the kit and arrange uplift. All welcome.

**Dornie in Bloom?** Members felt that with the current works being undertaken by Scottish Water now was not a suitable time to embark on this. However, it will be reconsidered again at a meeting towards the year end with a view to getting something off the ground for next year.

**Wester Ross Alliance AGM & Joint CC Meeting:** The secretary give an account of these meeting held in Kinlochewe last week. At the AGM Dornie & District CC was admitted as a member of the WRA and Graham was elected as a director. Among the items at the Joint CC meeting was a presentation by David Alston, chairman of HC's Budget Information Group, in which he spoke about the relatively generous Scottish Budget in recent years. However, this was unlikely to continue and we should expect tighter financial conditions in the future.

**Date of next meeting:** Monday 25th, May at 7.30 pm in Dornie Hall

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