

Ardross Community Council

Minutes of Management Meeting

10th October 2022
8.00 pm

Ardross Community Hall

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

James McDougall.

Meeting started at 8 pm.

The Community Council was not quorate to make decisions on Community Benefit.

1. There were apologies from Willie Beattie and James McTaggart. As well as Cllrs Maxine Smith and Tamala Collier.
2. The Minutes of the August 2022 Management Meeting were proposed by Peter Allen and seconded by John Edmondson.
3. The Treasurer had not had a chance to visit the RBS to verify that the money from the Ardross Woodland had been deposited in our account.

Cllr Tamala Collier had not reported back about the road junction at the Old Smiddy, the **Secretary** was to chase progress on this matter.

The Secretary reported that Census figures would not help us establishing a more detailed demographic for Ardross. Phil Tomalin from the Highland Council had stated that the Highland Council did not keep more detailed demographic figures. So the Community Council was therefore only able to make a judgement as to the level of support it could offer those households who say had an occupant over the age of 65 say. It was thought that a figure of £100 might be a good level of support, but this had to be compared with the current level of support for households with occupants over 70. It was hoped the next meeting would be quorate to make decisions of a financial nature. It was hoped that in the current climate any application to the wind farms would look favourably on the support to these households.

The Secretary explained that he had not had a reply from OfGEM about Smart Meter provision.

4. Alison Gordon had had representations about the poor internet connection for the Mobile Post Office which had prevented banking transactions from taking place. This is

meant that people were drifting away from the service as they couldn't get the things they wanted done. John Edmondson explained that the Post Office had been in touch with the Ardross Community Hall about this. The Hall had offered its internet and Cromarty Firth Wireless had agreed to connect them to the network. However the Post Office were putting up barriers for this to be achieved citing "security". This of course was a smoke screen, the reality was that the PO were having difficulties thinking outside the box. The matter was being pursued by the Hall.

John Edmondson wanted Community Councillors to be aware that there was a Public Consultation Event in the Hall by SSE on the 8th November about the grid connection for the Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farm Extension. The Ardross Community Council had not officially been informed of this meeting. But it was a booking in the Ardross Community Hall diary. It was a pity that we had not been informed of this before the Newsletter had come out.

Peter Allen had given a brief resumé of the Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farm Community Benefit Directors Meeting. It was hoped that some of the larger projects in Ardross delayed because of Covid would now progress so some of the money could be spent. In passing at the end of the meeting the Cromarty Hydrogen Project on the Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farm site was mentioned.

5. The Treasurer circulated her Treasurer's Report which covered the period from 10th of July 2022.

Since 1st April 2002 a total of £21,720.38 of community benefit has been paid towards community projects.

6. Alison Gordon wanted the Community Council to be aware that the Royal Mail had not delivered the mail in Ardross for a week. Apparently the Royal Mail thought that it was more important for mail to get delivered in Tain when there were staff shortages than Ardross. Taking our normal postman away to deliver in other areas. John Edmondson thought that the Universal Service Obligation was being eroded very significantly by Royal Mail, who were consulting on the provision of Sunday deliveries in urban areas, whilst making fewer weekly deliveries in rural areas.
7. The Secretary explained that there had been a Proposal of Application Notice about a hydrogen production facility on the Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farm track. The application was actually in the Edderton Community Council area, but was on the boundary of Ardross. Despite having made a provisional enquiry to book the Ardross Community Hall the applicant was holding a public consultation event in Edderton and the Averon Centre, Alness. The Secretary had written to both the applicant and Planners to insist as the neighbouring community that an event was held in Ardross.

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting.

Next Management Meeting on **14th November 2022** at the Ardross Community Hall

