

Ardross Community Council

Minutes of Management Meeting

9th January 2023

8.00 pm

Ardross Community Hall

Present: Peter Allen (Chair), John Edmondson (Secretary), Alison Gordon (Treasurer), and Willie Beattie

Emma Chisholm, Clair Bale and Neil Wilson

Meeting started at 8 pm.

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

4.00

1. There were apologies from James McTaggart and George MacKay as well as Sandra Cunliffe.
2. The December Minutes were proposed by Peter Allen and seconded by Alison Gordon.
3. The Secretary explained that OfGEM had responded, stating that the detail of smart meter deployment was not their responsibility and outlined whose responsibility it was. They did emphasise that householders should keep on asking to have smart meters installed to essentially create demand for the Ardross area. However if householders were aware that there was not the smart meter infrastructure they weren't going to ask for a smart meter.

The Ardross Community Hall have now purchased 2 wheelchairs and were looking at putting in clearly marked disabled parking in the car park.

10:40

4. The letter from Alness Parent Council about swimming lessons for S1-3 was then discussed. It has now come to light that the pool at Alness Academy was used out of school hours being open to Highlife Members, but was not open during school hours for either pupils or Highlife Members. Primary school pupils were still taught at the school.

It was generally agreed that there were a lot of issues here and that a one-off payment would not resolve them. There should be a structured approach, and a clear term

solution found, before considering any application for funding. Although there was general support for supporting both pupils learning to swim and providing a local swimming pool. The **Secretary was** to write to Alness Parent Council stating that although we wanted to support the local swimming pool, a medium term solution would need to be found before we could consider the matter

18:45

There was a discussion of 3 quotes for the groundworks to establish a new playpark.

John Edmondson declared an interest as an unpaid Director of the Ardross Community Hall, but as he had no financial interest would still take part in the discussions. Willie Beattie declared an interest and stated that he would not take part in the discussions and decision making.

The Chair had talked to George MacKay about the proposal and had said that he would support the Ardross Community Hall's proposal to use Mike Scott for the groundworks and landscaping. This was supported by Alison Gordon, but the decision would need to be formally ratified at our next meeting. In the meantime the Chair would talk to James McTaggart about the proposal. The application should be made to the Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Community Benefit Fund.

32:46

A thank you letter had been received from Jane Smith and Kerry Dolan for the donation for the Ardross Christmas Treat.

Fox & Friends had asked for an application form with a view to getting funding for their reading sessions to children. They had stated in the email that they were a charity, but their website had neither Charity Number nor address on it. The Secretary and written to them pointing out that this information was missing from their website, and also asking them whether they were aware that we had a nursery and a pre-school group.

36:47

5. The Treasurer presented the monthly accounts.

From the 1st of the April 2022 to the 9th January 2023 the Ardross Community Council had spent £26,541.20 towards community projects. £12,300 has been spent on energy grants, for 126 households. Grants for the Fire Alarms have amounted to £11,242 for 62 households.

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting.

Next Management Meeting on 8.00pm **13th February 2023** at the Ardross Community Hall

