

Ardross Community Council

Minutes of Management Meeting

13th March 2023

8.00 pm

Ardross Community Hall

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

David MacDonald, James McDougall, Sylvia Tarrant, Victoria Mardon, Richard Smith and Jane Smith.

Meeting started at 8.10 pm.

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

1. There were apologies from James McTaggart, Sandra Cunliffe and Willie Beattie. As well as Emma Chisholm.
2. Peter Allen proposed the January Minutes and seconded by Alison Gordon; the Notes of the February meeting were discussed and approved as Minutes.
3. The Secretary had written to the Highland Council about the damage to the crash barriers at Stittenham.
4. Two Felling licences were discussed in the Boath area. Because of the damage to the Lealty Bridge it was decided to write and explain that the Boath road should not be used as an extraction route.

Fox & Friends had finally responded with a Charity Number, although no postal address. It was decided to send them an application form, although there was no indication as to how much finding they were asking for. It should be emphasised that any successful application would have to demonstrate how the project would benefit Ardross.

There was a consultation on the Draft Energy Strategy and the Secretary urged people to make any relevant comments.

Alison Gordon had sent the Beinn Tharsuinn application form for the Ardross band's application for equipment.

55:58

Cllr Pauline Munro had reported that she was having a meeting with the Head of Alness Academy about the swimming pool. It was entirely down to the Head.

5. The Treasurer distributed the Treasurers Monthly report to those present. The Energy payment and Fire safety grants had finished. There were quite a few more households with people over 65 years old than we had thought, about 65 -70 households. Just under £7,000 was distributed in the last month. Since April 1st 2022 the Ardross Community Council had distributed £32,570.52.
6. Highland Council HQ had been asked to supply a new cattle grid for the rotten one in Strathrusdale, by the Roads Department.
7. The proposed power lines from Spittal to Beauly was discussed. Not everybody had gone to the presentation event in the Ardross Hall, and not every household had received a postcard informing them of the event.

The Secretary then went through the various options presented by SSEN. It was agreed that Route D3 was the Community Council's preferred option. D1 would have a very bad effect on Strathrusdale and it was agreed that we should try and avoid this happening. There could be micro-siting for D1 by ensuring the line did not cross in the middle of Strathrusdale.

54:55

John Edmondson explained that he had rung up a community councillor from Strathpeffer, which had been difficult. Their preferred option was to follow the existing route. But this was going to prove difficult because of the Strath Rory windfarm that the Strathpeffer Community Council had supported.

SSEN were not going to remove the existing pylons. It was felt that SSEN had already made up their mind and were already discussing wayleaves with landowners. They had had time to discuss wayleaves with landowners locally, but not actually look at Ardross and where the line was going through.

The Secretary explained that there was a meeting on Friday in Contin on the 17th March. People should go along. There was a planned meeting with SSEN to discuss some micro-routing of the line.

The need for this line was not clear. Why could they not underground the line? The feeling was that there was still not enough capacity to take all the wind power south.

1:08:00

It was resolved to do a flyer to outline the position of the Ardross Community Council and explain the Community Council's position and asking people to write. And the Community Council was to write supporting D3 and suggesting micro-siting for route D1.

The application for a toilet at the Ardross Church was discussed. The Ardross Community Council were quite happy to support this application. John Edmondson thought that some natural screening might be appropriate for the Cnoc Ruadh property.

Another mobile mast this time behind Stittenham had come in for pre-application. If it was intended to use the existing infrastructure and they were no comments to be made. It was to be welcomed that they were to use existing infrastructure.

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting.

Next Management Meeting on 8.00pm **10th April 2023** at the Ardross Community Hall

